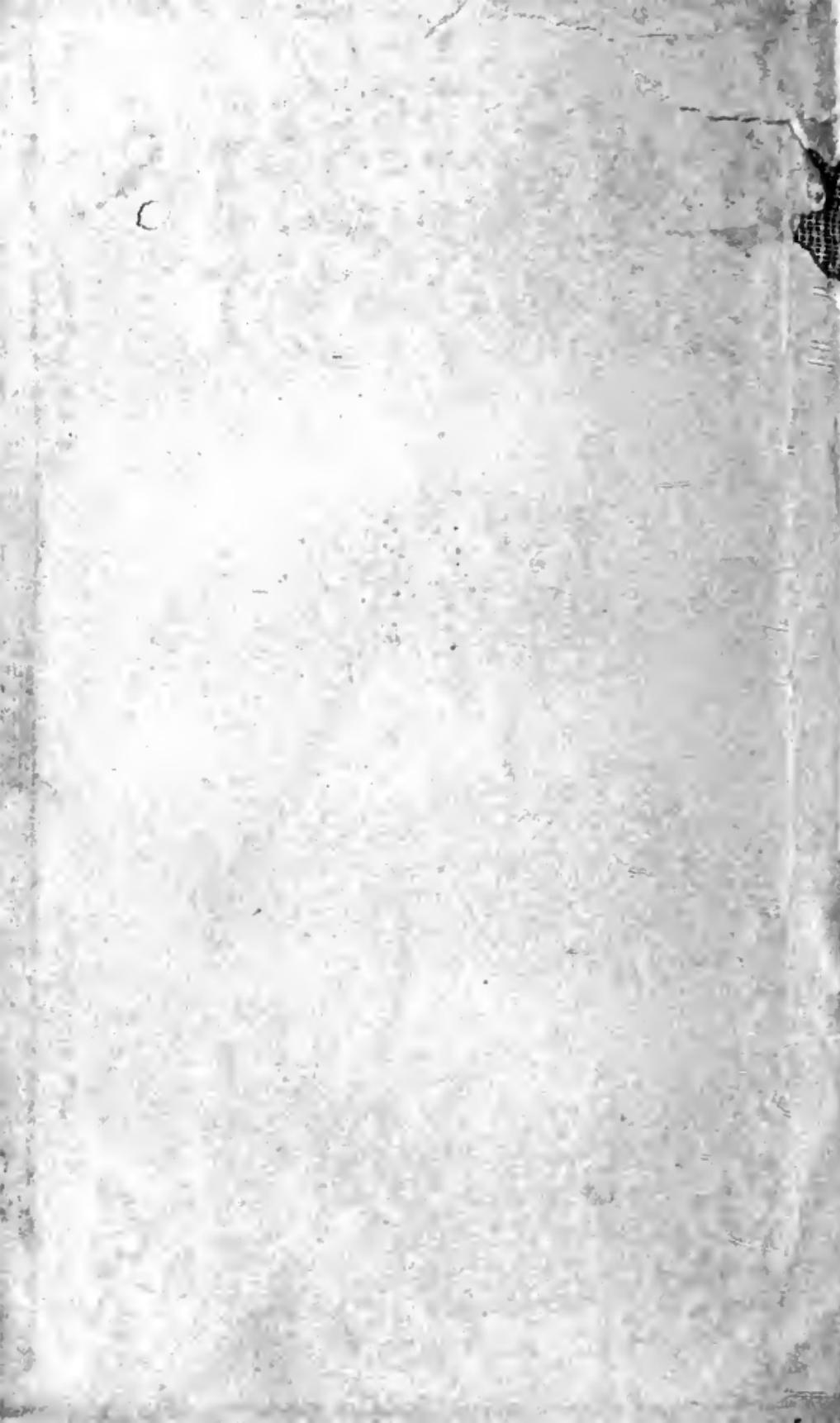


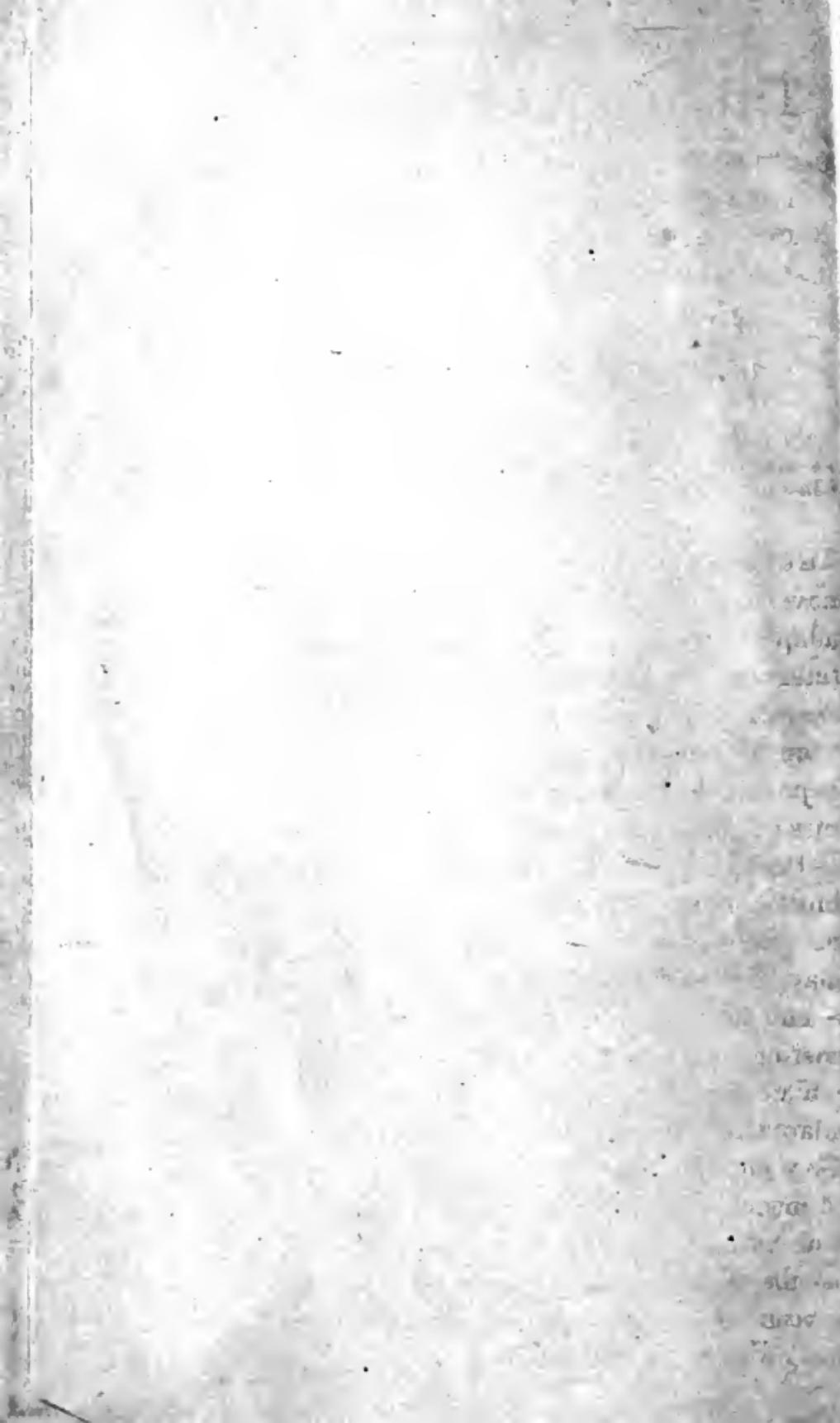
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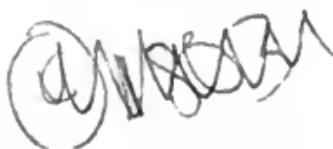
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THE LIFE  
OF  
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

—“Nations would do well  
To extort their truncheons from the puny hands  
Of heroes, whose infirm and baby minds  
Are gratified with mischief; and who spoil,  
Because men suffer it, their toy—the world.”—COWPER.

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## LIFE OF

# NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

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### CHAPTER I.

Birth, education, and early life of Napoleon—Anecdotes of his boyhood and school-days—He joins a regiment of artillery—His literary pursuits—Distinguishes himself at the siege of Toulon.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, the bearer of that name

“At which a world grew pale,”

was born at Ajaccio, a town in the island of Corsica, on the 15th of August, 1769. His father was an advocate, or barrister, of some local reputation, but appears not to have possessed any of those striking mental qualities for which his son was so distinguished. Napoleon's mother, however, Lætitia Ramolini, was a woman of superior abilities, as well as of great force of character, and seems to have

transmitted to her child that ardent and energetic disposition which was subsequently developed in his wonderful career. Napoleon's parents, although classed amongst the gentry of the island, were not opulent nor of distinguished rank. When Napoleon afterwards attained to eminence, flatterers were not found wanting who pretended to trace his birth from a distinguished line of Italian princes ; but he invariably declined accepting such honours. "I date," said he, "my patent of nobility from my first victory of Monte Notte." Napoleon was the second son of his parents ; Joseph, afterwards king of Spain, being his elder brother. He had three younger brothers and three sisters, in addition to five others who had died in infancy. Many reminiscences of Napoleon's boyhood have been preserved. The favourite plaything of the future conqueror is said to have been a brass cannon. A ruined grotto, situated on the sea-shore, is still pointed out as the spot where he was wont to retire, and devote himself to seclusion and contemplation.

"The superiority of Napoleon's character," says Mr. Lockhart, "was early felt. An aged relation, Lucien Bonaparte, archdeacon of Ajaccio, when dying, called the young people

about his death-bed to bid them farewell and to bless them. 'You, Joseph,' said the expiring man, 'are the eldest, but Napoleon is the head of the family. Take care to remember my words.'" Napoleon himself, when at St. Helena, left the following description of his youthful character. "I was," said he, "extremely headstrong, nothing overawed me—nothing disconcerted me; I was quarrelsome, mischievous, afraid of nobody. I beat one, I scratched another; I made myself formidable to the whole family. My mother, however, watched over me with a solicitude unexampled; she suffered nothing but what was grand and elevated to take root in our youthful understandings. She abhorred falsehood, was provoked by disobedience, and passed over none of our faults." Napoleon was accustomed to impute much of his future success to the training he received from his mother. Laudable as her maternal attention appears in many respects to have been, it is impossible not to lament the total absence of religious culture which seems to have pervaded it. Educated in the forms and superstitions of the church of Rome, Napoleon's affections were left uninfluenced by those pious instructions which the

heart, in the tenderness of youth, is, under the Divine blessing, so peculiarly adapted to receive.

Napoleon, when about ten years of age, was sent to the military school of Brienne, his parents having destined him for the profession of arms—a profession at that time, in consequence of a prejudice still too prevalent, viewed as peculiarly the pursuit of a noble and generous mind. Forty years afterwards he spoke of his parting from his mother, upon the occasion referred to, as having been particularly bitter and painful to his feelings. Brienne school, although of a military character, was somewhat inconsistently placed under the superintendence of a few monks, and regulated, in many respects, upon monastic principles. Each pupil was locked up at night in a solitary cell, the whole furniture of which consisted of a bed, an iron water-pitcher, and a basin. Napoleon became much attached to this school. “I was happy at Brienne,” was an expression which frequently dropped from his lips, when seated on the throne of empire.

In his manners at this time he appears to have been taciturn and reserved, a circumstance attributable, in a great measure, to the

fact of his having, on his first arrival at school, been imperfectly acquainted with the French language. Corsica, his native island, it may be observed in passing, had been united to France only a short time before the birth of Napoleon. He soon mastered the French tongue, and formed a strong attachment to a boy of the name of Bourienne, who in after-years became his secretary, and the well-known writer of his memoirs. Pichegru, who at a future period headed a conspiracy against Napoleon, was the monitor of the latter at Brienne, and imbibed, in that capacity, such an impression of his resolution and firmness of character, that, when consulted as to the propriety of winning over Napoleon to the cause of the Bourbons, he exclaimed, "It will be lost labour attempting that ; I knew him in his youth ; he has taken his side, and he will not change it." In the study of the dead languages, and in literature generally, Napoleon made no great progress ; but in the mathematical and other sciences, bearing upon military tactics, he was much distinguished.

"One of his teachers," says Mr. Lockhart, "having condemned him for some offence to wear a coarse woollen cloth on a particular

day, and to dine on his knees at the door of the refectory, the boy's spirit swelling under the dishonour, brought on a sudden vomiting and a strong fit of hysterics. The mathematical master passing by, said they did not understand what they were dealing with, and released him." Upon another occasion, Napoleon being anxious to visit, along with his school-fellows, some village festival, which they had been prohibited by their teachers from attending, undermined the walls of the school-garden with so much military skill, that the whole of his party effected their escape through the opening, to the no small astonishment of their guardians.

Bourienne, in his memoirs of Napoleon, mentions another anecdote of the future warrior, which shows how strongly, even in youth, his master-passion began to display its workings. "During the winter of 1783," says the narrator, "so memorable for heavy falls of snow, which everywhere lay to the depth of six or eight feet, Napoleon contrived to stir up the whole school by the proposal of a new amusement. This was to clear various passages through the snow in the great court, and with shovels to erect works, dig trenches, raise

parapets, and construct platforms. ‘ We can divide into parties,’ said Napoleon, ‘ and form a siege. I undertake to direct the attack.’ This proposal was complied with, and the mimic combat maintained for the space of fifteen days. Indeed, the warfare did not cease, until, by gravel and small stones being mixed with the snow of which the balls were made, many of the students were wounded.” During his school holidays, Napoleon revisited Corsica. He was much in the society of the celebrated general Paoli, and strongly attracted the regard of that veteran. “ O Napoleon !” he would exclaim, “ you do not resemble the moderns ; you belong to the heroes of Plutarch !”

At the age of fourteen, Napoleon, as a mark of distinction, was transferred from Brienne to the military school of Paris. The report upon his acquirements, forwarded to the government by his masters, is still preserved. It recommended him as being well-adapted for the naval profession ! The school into which he had thus been admitted was frequented principally by the sons of the French nobility. The style in which the pupils lived was luxurious and extravagant ; so much so, as to prove highly distasteful to Napoleon, whose

habits in youth and manhood were marked by strict temperance. Instead of yielding, as the generality of young men would have done, to the self-indulgent practices of those around him, he presented a memorial to the governors of the school, suggesting that the students should be furnished with plain food instead of delicacies, and taught to attend upon themselves, instead of being waited on by footmen. The memorial, it is said, was very unfavourably received. It shows, however, the remarkable character of Napoleon, and teaches a lesson of self-discipline, from which even the Christian reader may gather improvement.

At the age of seventeen Napoleon left school. He was now deprived by death of his father, who died of cancer in the stomach, the disease to which Napoleon himself subsequently fell a victim. His abilities had not escaped the notice of his instructors. His future eminence was predicted by several of them; and it is pleasing, when relating the many dark passages in his career, to have to record that Napoleon, on reaching distinction, was not forgetful to reward those to whose instruction, perhaps he was in part indebted for its attainment.

At this point terminates the narrative of the

school-days of Napoleon. We must now be prepared to follow him into that arena of active life, on which it was decreed that he should perform so prominent a part. In application to study, and in laborious preparation for the duties of his profession, his example was worthy of imitation. The Christian philanthropist, however, will be unable to withhold a sigh as he contemplates the youthful Napoleon, about to rush into the battle of life, unequipped with that celestial armour which would have preserved him harmless from the assaults of those temptations to which he fearfully succumbed. Had his heart been devoted to the service of his God and Saviour, had his vast talents been sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and dedicated to the glory of the Giver, how different would have been the narrative of his career from that which we now proceed to record !

After leaving the royal military school at Paris, Napoleon received an appointment as lieutenant of a regiment of artillery, called Lafere. He was never ashamed, even when emperor, of referring to this period of his life ; and, upon one occasion, when a number of crowned heads were seated at his table, he

astonished them all a little by commencing an anecdote with the words, "When I was a lieutenant in the regiment of Lafere." Napoleon remained without promotion for seven years, a circumstance which he sometimes quoted to those who complained of the slowness of their elevation to military rank. One morning, when the emperor was reviewing some troops, a young officer complained bitterly to him that his services had been overlooked, as he had been five years a lieutenant. "My friend," rejoined the emperor, "I was one for seven years; and yet see, for all that, how I have pushed myself forward."

Napoleon employed his leisure in a variety of literary pursuits. He prepared for the press a history of Corsica, which, from some cause, however, was never published. He competed successfully also for a prize, offered by a provincial society, for an essay on the institutions best adapted to promote national happiness. At a subsequent period, Talleyrand procured the original manuscript, and showed it to Napoleon, who, after running it rapidly over, cast it into the fire, remarking merely, "One cannot attend to everything." The essay, no doubt, contained many youthful

flights in favour of liberty, with which the emperor's actual practice was sadly at variance. While upon the subject of Napoleon's literary pursuits, we may observe, that it is the opinion of a writer well-qualified to decide on such matters, that Bonaparte, "if he had not become the first conqueror, would have been one of the greatest writers, as assuredly he was one of the profoundest thinkers, of modern times."\* Napoleon himself, when banished to St. Helena, had a melancholy gratification in reviewing his literary compositions. "Their re-perusal," writes one of the attendants on his captivity, "produced a powerful impression on himself; they interested—they excited him. 'They had the impudence,' he on one occasion exclaimed, 'to say I could not write !'"

While a lieutenant, Napoleon formed an attachment to a young lady of the name of Columbier, but it did not ripen into a permanent union. He seems to have known too well the value of the season of youth, to squander it away in unproductive idleness. A companion has related that, when out on a boating excursion with him, the object which occupied Napoleon's attention was not

\* Alison.

the beauty of the scenery, but the facilities for military operations presented by the spot. "See," he would exclaim, "how well artillery could be brought to bear here, and how easily yonder tower could be bombarded!" Sad as was the application of the principle by Bonaparte, it must be remembered, that it is by thus bringing everything, however minute, to bear on the prosecution of some leading object, that excellence in the practical business of life, or eminence in Christian usefulness, is to be attained.

While Napoleon was still serving as a lieutenant, the public mind of France began to be agitated by those political discussions which proved the precursors of that remarkable event, the French revolution.\* Napoleon, with all the impetuosity of youth, embraced the popular side in this struggle, and even contributed to the controversial literature of the day by a smartly-written pamphlet, entitled, "The Supper of Beaucire." As yet, however, no indications presented themselves of his being likely to fill that exalted position which he afterwards attained. On one occasion, he rescued

\* See "Sketches of the French Revolution," published as a Monthly Volume by the Religious Tract Society.

from imminent danger a brother officer, who had excited the fury of the mob by singing a royalist air, entitled, "O Richard! O my King!" "How little," said Napoleon at St. Helena, "did I dream that this very song would one day be interdicted on my account at Paris!" About the year 1792, Napoleon received the appointment of captain, without, however, being nominated to any particular regiment. It is probable that his half-pay was very irregularly provided, as Bourienne, who was his companion at the time, describes him as being glad to borrow small sums, and as having been even so far reduced as to be compelled to pawn his watch. One of the projects of the future conqueror was to speculate in hiring empty houses, and letting them out at an increased rent! More lofty objects of ambition were soon, however, to open upon him.

Corsica, his native island, having thrown off the yoke of the French government, Bonaparte was employed in an expedition against it. Upon this occasion he tasted some of the rigours of war, having been compelled, with his companions, to live for some days on horse-flesh. Soon after his return from Corsica,

where he had displayed considerable military skill, he was appointed commandant of artillery at the siege of Toulon. This important seaport, which forms one of the principal arsenals of France, had the courage to declare itself opposed to the tyrannical and bloodthirsty decrees of the National Convention. A revolutionary army had accordingly besieged it, with instructions to devote it, in event of capture, to all the horrors of warfare. Well knowing what they had to expect from their merciless opponents, the inhabitants of Toulon had so far overcome their antipathies to England, as to admit within their port a British fleet and army; and thus succoured, they resisted, successfully, every effort of the besiegers. Dispirited at last by a series of repulses, the revolutionary leaders resolved to try the effect of a change of officers, and conferred upon Napoleon the appointment already mentioned.

Most signally was the wisdom of their choice vindicated, for all parties soon found that a master-mind had arrived upon the stage of action. Napoleon discovered that the grossest negligence had been permitted to take place in all the arrangements for the prosecution of the

siege. The red-hot balls, intended to be used for the conflagration of the town, were heated in farm-houses, at such a distance from the camp, that before they could be conveyed to it they grew cold. The troops, too, were altogether dispirited, a circumstance little to be wondered at, as the details of a complex military operation had been left by the Convention under the superintendence of two civilians, Cartaux, a painter, and Doppet, a physician. Napoleon rectified the more glaring blunders of the siege, and his eagle-eye speedily detected the grand point on which the success of the whole enterprise depended. A small promontory, commanding the town and harbour of Toulon, had remained comparatively unnoticed both by the besiegers and besieged, from an impression that it was too remotely situated to have any important influence upon the siege. Napoleon, however, saw that, if the French troops could once obtain possession of this eminence, a battery might be erected on it, which, from its commanding position, would soon sweep the bay of every vessel, and thus compel the British forces to retire, or be cut off entirely from their fleet. Having succeeded, after some difficulty, in effecting his object, he

found his views, as to the importance of the post, completely verified. The English forces made a precipitate retreat, carrying off in their vessels about fourteen thousand of the inhabitants, who had implored that they might not be left exposed to the ferocious treatment of the revolutionary army. A scene of horror followed the departure of the British fleet. The harbour was illuminated with the flames of vessels on fire, while the air was rent by the explosion of powder-magazines, and the shrieks of those unhappy inhabitants for whom no room could be found in the retiring vessels. Carnage and cruelty followed, as had been expected, at the capture of the city. Napoleon, however, is universally admitted to have behaved with humanity on the occasion, and, at the risk of personal danger, facilitated the escape of several prisoners who had been destined for the guillotine.

One fact will show the temper of the Jacobin leaders at this time. They issued a proclamation, inviting all who had worked at the fortifications of Toulon to come forward and assist in their repairs. A hundred and forty poor men obeyed the summons ; but, instead of receiving employment, as they had been led to

expect, orders were issued for their immediate execution.

Napoleon was fond, in after life, of referring to what he called the star of his fate. At the siege of Toulon that star shone out bright and clear. "Never," says a writer, "did it rise on a scene of greater horrors." An artilleryman happened to be shot by the side of Napoleon in the course of the siege, and, with a view to encourage the men, the latter seized the implement which the dying soldier dropped, and loaded the gun himself. In so doing, however, he caught a cutaneous disorder, which, being unskillfully treated, was not thoroughly eradicated till many years afterwards. During the siege, also, Napoleon made the acquaintance of two of his future marshals, Junot and Duroc. "My young commander," the former wrote to his father, "is one of those men of whom nature is sparing, and whom she throws upon the earth only once or twice in the course of centuries." While Napoleon's merits were thus appreciated by his soldiers, they were studiously overlooked by his superiors in command. The cowardly representatives from the Convention, Cartaux and Doppel, after having carefully kept out of danger, took all the credit of the

victory to themselves, and did not, it is said, allow even the name of Bonaparte to appear in their dispatches to head-quarters.

Thus may be said to have opened the military career of Napoleon. Where the worldly historian would expatiate in panegyric, the Christian biographer must be silent. On scenes of carnage, such as those we have been describing, it is impossible to dwell with complacency. Amidst the tumult of selfish joy which filled Napoleon's breast, solid satisfaction must have been wanting ; and on the rock of his solitary exile at St. Helena, to have, from Christian principle, dried up one orphan's tear, or have comforted one son or daughter of affliction, would have afforded sweeter topics of recollection, than all his achievements at Toulon, or throughout his future course.

## CHAPTER II.

Napoleon is dispatched on a mission to Genoa—Is imprisoned, and quits, for a time, the army—Anecdotes of his private life—Is again employed by the French government—Marries Josephine—Appointed general of the army in Italy—History of the campaign in Italy, with sketches of Napoleon's military character.

THE ability displayed by Napoleon at the siege of Toulon had been too great to be altogether concealed. He received, therefore, an appointment to inspect the French fortifications on the coast of the Mediterranean ; and, discharging that duty to the satisfaction of the government, he was attached—although still in a subordinate capacity—to an army serving on the frontiers of Italy. Soon afterwards, he was employed in a secret mission to Genoa, where the French ambassador was considered by the Convention to have exhibited too much supineness in his schemes for revolutionizing the neighbourhood.

One of the parties conjoined with Napoleon in this mission was the younger brother of Robespierre, who conceived a strong admiration of his abilities. Intelligence of the crisis which preceded the fall of the elder Robespierre having arrived, the younger brother returned to Paris, whither he pressed Napoleon to accompany him. The latter, however, had the foresight to decline the invitation, a compliance with which, there is little doubt, would have involved him in the fate of Robespierre and his party. Even as matters stood, Napoleon did not escape the suspicion of the new section which had risen to power, but was, by its order, thrown into prison, where he remained for some weeks. Upon that occasion, he addressed a vigorous appeal to the commissioner who had arrested him. "Salicetti," he said, "are you a patriot, and will you give up to ruin a general who has not been unserviceable to the republic? Hear me, and restore me to the esteem of my country; —the next hour take that life I little value, and which I have often despised." This appeal, the concluding portion of which will suggest melancholy reflections to the Christian reader, was successful, and Napoleon was permitted to return to Paris.

During his brief confinement, as it afterwards appeared, he had not failed to improve his time. The officer to whose custody he had been entrusted, found him often gazing upon the map of Italy, and revolving, no doubt, that campaign which afterwards made his name so well known to Europe. Wearied out, however, one evening—according to his own account—he sought for some book with which to relieve the hours of his captivity. After a long search, he discovered in a cupboard a treatise on the Civil Law of Rome, which he studied most attentively, arranging its contents, unlikely as they appeared ever to be of practical utility to him, in his methodical and retentive memory. The result showed the wisdom of turning all opportunities of improvement to account. In after years, when preparing his celebrated code of laws, he astonished the eminent jurists who assisted him in that Herculean work, by his profound knowledge of legal principles. Well would it be for the Christian to copy Napoleon's spirit in this respect, and to display the same sedulous care, in turning to advantage every opportunity of usefulness, however apparently minute and insignificant.

On his return to Paris, Napoleon solicited

the new government unsuccessfully for employment. He was offered, it is true, an appointment in the army serving in La Vendée, but this he declined, either as disliking the task of fighting against his own countrymen, or, as is more probable, because the commission proposed to him was in a brigade of infantry instead of artillery. The president of the military board, who had not seen much of actual warfare, is stated to have taunted Napoleon with his youth, and to have received from the latter the cutting reply, that "Age should be dated from a man's services in the field, and not from his years only." Bonaparte was, accordingly, dismissed from the army, and thrown upon Paris without any resources. He here resumed once more his intimacy with Bourienne, who has described him as being at this time very short of money, and callous to all those feelings of ambition which afterwards animated him. He used to dine frequently with Bourienne and his friends—each of the company, in consequence of the dearness of bread, bringing a supply of that article. His brother, about this period, married a rich wine-merchant's daughter, and Bonaparte was often heard to envy his relative's good fortune, and to

state, that the summit of his ambition was to occupy a small house in a neighbouring street, and to have a cabriolet of his own to drive. The hour had at last approached, however, when his career of worldly prosperity was to begin ; and, as frequently happens, the period of success was preceded by one of gloom and discouragement. Napoleon's circumstances had begun to affect his spirits, and, driven by the emergency of his position, he had formed the visionary project of endeavouring to quit France and join the Turkish artillery.

About this period, (1795,) the whole of the French people were heartily sick of the revolutionary government which had been established. The National Convention in particular, once the idol of the popular party, had become peculiarly obnoxious, and a change in its constitution had been loudly called for. Yielding to the spirit of the times, the leaders of the revolution had remodelled the form of government, and proposed that five directors should, in future, discharge the executive functions of the state, and that two deliberative assemblies, mutually checking each other, should supply the place of the National Convention. This change in the constitution would have been generally accept-

able to the community, had not the advantages expected from it been in a great degree neutralized by an enactment of the Convention, that two-thirds of their own body should be returned as members of the new assemblies. The more wealthy classes of Paris, worn out with the tyranny of the Convention, and foreseeing that the effect of this alteration would be to continue the authority of that body under another name, rose in revolt against the new constitution, and succeeded in giving a check to the troops sent to disperse them.

Alarmed at the success of the insurgents, the government hastily looked round for some one who could take the lead at this emergency. Barras, one of the newly-appointed directors, had happened to make the acquaintance of Napoleon, and immediately exclaimed, "I know a little Corsican officer, who will not stand upon any ceremony." Napoleon, on having an appointment offered to him in the army, remained for half-an-hour in close deliberation, weighing, no doubt, the strength of each party, and the course which it was most for his private interest to pursue. He at last determined to accept the command, and immediately showed that he understood the value of promptness in action as

well as of mature reflection. He dispatched, although it was midnight, an officer to seize a dépôt of artillery, situated a short distance from Paris; and so well-timed was this measure, that the cannon were secured only a short time before a detachment of the enemy arrived upon the ground, with the intention of gaining possession of them. Napoleon found himself supported by about five thousand men, and a body of revolutionary volunteers, chiefly gleaned from the lowest haunts of Paris, but dignified with the title of the Sacred Band. He planted artillery at the crossings of the principal streets, and sent eight hundred muskets, to be used by the members of the Convention in case of need —a decisive measure which, no doubt, startled that loquacious body, at all times more ready to speak of its valour than to show it in action. On the morning of the following day, the insurgents marched to the attack, but they were soon, by the skilful arrangements of Napoleon, thrown into confusion, and completely routed. The Convention, anxious to show their gratitude to Napoleon, conferred upon him the post of commander of Paris and the army of the interior; and he sprang, in consequence, from poverty and comparative obscurity to wealth

and distinction. His poor lodging was exchanged for a magnificent residence, and his old friends remarked, that he was no longer pleased with their familiar mode of addressing him.

An event took place at this period which had a most important influence on Napoleon's future fortunes. One day, as he was seated in his office, an aide-de-camp introduced into the apartment a boy of pleasing demeanour, who asked to have restored to him the sword of his father, the marquis de Beauharnais, a nobleman who had perished in the course of the revolution. Napoleon complied with the request of the youth, and the latter, on receiving the sword, immediately burst into tears. Bonaparte, pleased with such marks of sensibility, endeavoured to soothe the boy's agitation, and treated him with so much kindness that his mother, the next day, called to return her thanks for his courtesy. This lady was the marchioness de Beauharnais, the celebrated Josephine, afterwards the wife of Napoleon. The latter was greatly struck by the fascinating manners which Josephine displayed at this interview, and soon afterwards made her an offer of marriage, which, after some little hesitation, was accepted.

Josephine, indeed, was wont to state, that even before she saw Napoleon, her affections were fixed upon him, in consequence of the description of his manners and appearance which she had received from her son. No life of Napoleon would be complete without a sketch of the lady whom he had thus chosen as the partner of his fortunes. Her disposition was full of kindness, and she was liberal even to profusion. She was devotedly attached to Napoleon, and gained a strong ascendancy over him, which was always exerted in favour of humanity. She was never happy when absent from her husband, and willingly shared many of his fatigues and dangers. "If I stepped into my carriage," Napoleon said, "to set out on the longest journey, to my surprise I found Josephine already prepared, although I had no idea of her accompanying me. If I said to her, 'You cannot possibly go, the journey is too long, and will be too fatiguing for you,' 'Not at all,' Josephine would reply. 'But I must set out instantly.' 'Well, I am quite ready.' 'But you must require a great deal of luggage.' 'Oh no, everything is packed up.' Thus," added Napoleon, "I was generally obliged to yield."

Pleasing as the character of Josephine was,

in many respects, yet faithfulness compels us to exhibit to the reader some serious defects in her conduct. She cared little about deceiving her husband. Being a few years older than Napoleon, she was anxious, on the day of her marriage, to conceal the real state of her age, and presented for registration the baptismal certificate of her sister, who was six years younger than herself. Josephine was also passionately fond of dress, and frequently made extravagant purchases without the knowledge of Bonaparte. There was, in consequence, always a grand dispute when the day of settling her accounts with him came round, and she was frequently known to order her tradesmen to send in only half the amount of their bills. The reader of Napoleon's life must deeply regret the existence of such stains upon the character of one who had so many amiable qualities, and who exerted such a humanizing influence over her selfish husband. Immersed, like too many of her sex, in the vanities of a deluding world, Josephine was a stranger to the word of God, and her subsequent career exemplified but too truly the truth of its emphatic warning—"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain." Happy had it been for her had she

realized the truth of the concluding section of the passage now quoted : "A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised," Prov. xxxi. 30.

Napoleon was not permitted to remain long in Paris after his marriage. Within twelve days from that event he had left the company of Josephine, and was on his march to Italy, having been appointed commander of the French army in that country. Napoleon's letters to Josephine, at this period, have been published, and they breathe a spirit of warm attachment, which she strongly reciprocated. Amongst the most interesting articles of the Napoleon Museum, recently exhibited in London, was a portrait of Napoleon, in needlework, executed about this period by Josephine and her daughter, Hortense—an employment which must have kept the image of her husband constantly before her.

Napoleon proceeded, with great dispatch, and in high spirits, to his new command, for it was the first time that he had been entrusted with supreme military authority : at Toulon, it will be recollect, he acted in a subordinate capacity. The duties to which he had been called were, indeed, far from being light or easy. The French army, dispirited by defeat,

lay almost at the portals of Italy, unable to force a passage. In number it was far inferior to the enemy, and its equipments were most wretched. The clothes of the soldiers were in rags; they were without shoes to their feet, and their pay was deeply in arrear. The arrival of Napoleon, however, on the scene of action, quickly changed the face of affairs. He delivered to the soldiery an animating and a stirring proclamation, in which he dwelt, by anticipation, on the victories which were about to follow. "Soldiers," said he, "the republic owes you much, but she has not wherewith to pay you. I am come to lead you into the most fertile plains which the sun beholds. Rich provinces, opulent towns—all shall be at your disposal! Soldiers, with such a prospect before you, can you fail in courage?"

Of the singular campaign which followed, it would be impossible, in a work like this, to give more than the most general sketch. Napoleon found himself opposed by three armies, composed of Austrian and Sardinian troops, who guarded the passes to the Alps in the neighbourhood of Genoa. Collecting all his forces, he dashed down upon one of these armies, and defeated it by force of numbers.

Immediately concentrating his troops, he marched them, without allowing any time for repose, to another part of the country, and attacking in detail the two other armies, routed them in succession, almost before they had time to learn the reverses which had befallen their companions. The consequences of these engagements, known under the title of the battle of Monte Notte, were very important. The king of Sardinia, who, from his peculiar situation, had been termed the porter of the Alps, was forced to surrender some of his strongest fortresses, and to submit to other humiliating conditions, which caused him to die of a broken heart.

Napoleon lost no time in following up the advantages which he had gained. The forces of the enemy were successively dislodged from the positions which they occupied, and the important towns of Turin, Milan, and Pavia, captured. Austria, alarmed by such unexpected reverses, speedily dispatched fresh armies, under the command of one of her oldest and most experienced generals, named Wurmser. He advanced with eighty thousand men to attack Napoleon's troops, which amounted only to thirty thousand. Wurmser,

accustomed to the old system of military tactics, had divided his army into three bodies, which were separated at some little distance from each other. Napoleon speedily perceived the blunder which his opponent had committed, and again pursued his former course of rapidly concentrating all his forces upon one particular point, and defeating each of the enemy's divisions in detail. Wurmser found, to his astonishment, his large and splendid army scattered in the course of a few weeks, and, with a small remnant of his troops, was glad to take refuge in the strongly fortified town of Mantua. Undeterred by these startling defeats, the Austrian government again sent up levies, under another general. As if by infatuation, this leader pursued the routine course adopted by his predecessors, and divided his troops—a mistake which was again improved by Bonaparte, who, strengthened as he was by fresh levies from France, utterly defeated his opponents, and compelled even Wurmser to evacuate the strongholds of Mantua.

A final attempt made by Austria to oppose to Napoleon the skill of the young archduke

Charles, was equally unsuccessful ; and, driven out of Italy, the Austrian emperor was glad to sue for peace, in order to prevent a humiliating invasion of his own territories. The various states of Italy had been equally alarmed with Austria, at the meteor-like progress of Napoleon. The duke of Modena, and other smaller princes, were glad to yield an unconditional submission ; and the king of Naples was only too happy to preserve, for a time, his dominions, by concluding an alliance with the youthful conqueror. The pope of Rome made a humiliating submission, at the expense of some of his most important towns ; while the ancient republic of Venice, after in vain sueing for Bonaparte's favour, was dissolved, and its dominions partitioned between France and Austria. Such is a faint and brief outline of Napoleon's remarkable Italian campaign. In the course of it he had displayed marks of great genius. His energy, his activity, his presence of mind in danger, the fertility of his resources, and the originality of his schemes, all evinced a capacity of very high order. Alas, that talents so vast should have been expended in a cause so

worthless, instead of having been consecrated to the welfare of man, and the glory of the Giver!

Pausing for a moment to analyse the secret of Napoleon's success, it will be found to have consisted, in a great measure, in his having adopted an entirely novel system of military tactics. Before the period now referred to, it had been imagined that the science of warfare was exhausted, and that nothing new could be contributed towards it. Campaigns were conducted upon certain fixed and almost unvarying principles, a battle or two being fought in a season, and the troops, during winter, retiring to winter-quarters. Bonaparte, however, reversed all this. He accustomed his troops to the most rapid movements. Instead of reposing after victory, they were made to hurry along by forced marches, and to descend, like a thunderbolt, on the heads of some troops of the enemy, who imagined them to be fifty miles distant. As a matter of course, under such a system, battle succeeded battle with unexampled rapidity. An artist, who had been engaged by Napoleon to execute some sketches of his engagements, was quite disconcerted in his work by the rapidity with

which some new victory rendered almost obsolete the one which he had begun to delineate. Still more singular was the perplexity of the enemy. "Nothing can be worse than the way matters are conducted," said an old Austrian officer to Napoleon himself, in ignorance of the latter's person. "Here is a young man who knows absolutely nothing of the rules of war. To-day he is on our rear ; to-morrow on our flank ; next day again on our rear : such violations of the art of war are intolerable."

During this campaign, Napoleon displayed his personal courage in a manner so marked, as sufficiently to refute those calumnies which have been circulated, as to his exposing his troops to danger while shrinking from it himself. On two occasions, in particular, at the battle of the bridge of Lodi and at the battle of Arcola, did Napoleon thus display his daring spirit. At the first of these places the enemy had planted a battery of thirty pieces of artillery, which poured a stream of grape-shot along the narrow pathway of the bridge. In vain did the French soldiery press forward ; they fell beneath the storm of death like hay before the mower's scythe. Napoleon, at last, taking the standard into his own hands, placed

himself in front of his troops, and led them on to victory, wondrously escaping the deadly volleys which played around. At Arcola he displayed the same intrepid spirit. In after years, indeed, he was accustomed to speak of these engagements as having been amongst the most severe which ever occurred in the whole of his military career ; and the battle of Lodi was rarely mentioned by him without being emphatically designated, "the terrible battle of Lodi."

The common soldiers, as might have been expected, were passionately attached to a general who thus shared their dangers. They called him their little corporal, and took familiarities with him which he was far too politic to discourage. When he walked his rounds, the soldiers would often discuss with him the plan of his future attacks, and sometimes suggest plans which he deemed worthy of being carried into practice. On one occasion, when Napoleon was exposing himself to too much danger, a grenadier rudely pushed him back, paying him as he did a high compliment by saying, "If thou art killed, who is to bring us out of this danger ?" Familiar as Napoleon was, however, with his common soldiery, he knew well, when

occasion required it, how to preserve his authority over them. Thus, when some troops had suffered themselves, as he considered, to be ignominiously defeated, he stung them to the quick by this pointed reproof: "These men are no longer French soldiers. Let it be written on their colours, they are not of the army of Italy." The troops, with tears of shame, entreated that they might be tried once more, and succeeded in gaining Napoleon's favour.

Napoleon's familiarity with the stratagems of war was often conspicuous during this campaign; a familiarity, however, which was displayed at the expense of truth. At one time, when engaged in a battle where delay was absolutely necessary, he averted an important movement, which his opponent was about to make, by sending a flag of truce, under pretence that overtures of peace had arrived from Paris. On another occasion, while lingering in a village, with only a small number of troops, he was suddenly surrounded by a much larger number of Austrian forces. The officer in command of the latter, ignorant of Napoleon's presence, sent a messenger to demand the surrender of the French. Napoleon ordered the messenger, who was blindfolded, to be brought in, and having

previously made the members of his staff stand in a circle round him, took the bandage from his eyes, and asked him if he knew that he was in the presence of Bonaparte, with the whole of his forces beside him. The name of Napoleon operated like a spell on the messenger. He returned to the Austrian quarters, and informing his officers that the French general with all his army was at hand, the commander, panic-struck, surrendered his own men as prisoners of war, and did not discover till too late the snare into which he had fallen.

Napoleon, when commanding in Italy, introduced a new feature into warfare, by plundering the various towns which he conquered of the works of art which they contained. A committee of taste continually attended his army, and assisted in the selection of valuable paintings, which were sent to Paris, and there received in triumph. Upon one occasion, Napoleon was offered about 80,000*l.* to allow a single picture to remain undisturbed. His generals urged him to accept the money: "No," he replied, "that would soon be spent; but the fame of the picture will be abiding, and will, for centuries, stimulate the fine arts in Paris." Napoleon displayed, also, great self-command

in resisting various bribes and allurements offered to him. Austria tempted him to favour her, by placing at his disposal a German principality, with a large income, but he unhesitatingly rejected the proposition, having far higher objects of ambition. Various exertions, also, were made to ensnare him by means of mistresses, who might, it was hoped by his opponents, learn his secrets, and thus acquire a fatal influence over him, but he steadily resisted the bait: "My mind," said he, at St. Helena, "was too strong to be caught by such a snare; the precipice concealed under the flowers was continually present to my mind." How strikingly does Napoleon's conduct reprove unwatchful Christians! If he, to obtain a corruptible crown, was, in striving for the mastery, thus temperate in all things, how ought *they* to act who profess to seek one that is incorruptible?

Napoleon, on his first visit to Italy, powerfully awoke the sympathies of the Italians, who anticipated great advantages from his presence. The circumstance of his having been a native of Corsica, and therefore in some sense one of their own countrymen, reconciled them in a great measure to his conquests, more especially as they expected, in consequence of them, a large

accession of liberty. He flattered these illusions for a season by forming some of the Italian states into independent republics, but he soon undeceived all parties by the heavy exactions which he levied from the conquered provinces, and by the severe mode in which he punished the revolts which occasionally broke out against the French authority. The city of Pavia was one of those which rebelled against Napoleon's oppression. "I promised it," he himself has recorded, "to my soldiers for twenty-four hours' plunder, but after three hours of it I could bear it no longer, and put an end to it. I had but twelve hundred men with me, and the cries of the populace which rang in my ears prevailed."

Upon another occasion, also, during this campaign, Napoleon showed himself accessible to feelings, if not of humanity, at least of sensibility. The incident may be related in his own words: "When visiting a field of battle, a dog leaped suddenly from below the clothes of his dead master, rushed upon us, and then immediately returned to his hiding-place howling most piteously. No incident on a field of battle ever produced so deep an impression on me. This man, I thought, had friends in the camp or in his company, and here he lies forsaken by all

except his dog. I had, without emotion, ordered battles which were to decide the fate of an army ; I had beheld, with tearless eyes, the execution of those operations by which numbers of my countrymen were sacrificed—and yet here my feelings were roused by the mournful howlings of a dog."

In surveying the campaign of Napoleon in Italy, the reader is almost involuntarily led to admire the ardour, the perseverance, the genius, and the self-government he displayed. It was an example of "life in earnest," it was a fixed design, strenuously pursued and successfully achieved. When, however, calmer reflection recalls to view that all the noble qualities we have described were summoned into action for the infliction of misery, the gratification of selfish ambition, and the support of a mean and despicable policy, the mind recoils from the prospect in horror, and stands astonished at the depravity of the human heart, which can find pleasure in such detestable pursuits. Still, however, the campaign of Napoleon may well furnish the Christian reader with motives to perseverance and alacrity in his heavenly course. In the great warfare to which he has been called, let him strive to emulate the glowing

zeal and sleepless energy which Napoleon exhibited. Let him labour to show the same contempt of present ease and pleasure which this warrior manifested, when they stood in the way of important successes; and let him remember that, by the Holy Spirit's strength, he has in his own heart and daily life battles as severe to win, as ever were fought by Napoleon on the fair plains of Italy.

## CHAPTER III.

Napoleon is joined by his old schoolfellow, Bourienne—Anecdote—Peace concluded with Austria—Napoleon returns to Paris—His reception there—The expedition to Egypt planned—Description of the voyage—He lands, and has various engagements with the natives—Egypt conquered—Napoleon's improvements and adventures in that country.

At the time when Napoleon was negotiating with Austria as to the terms of peace, he was joined in Italy by his old schoolfellow, Bourienne, whom he had repeatedly invited to act as his secretary. This writer mentions, that on arriving at the head-quarters of the victorious general, he found him surrounded by a brilliant staff of officers. Napoleon cried out to Bourienne on his entrance, with all the apparent familiarity of ancient friendship, “So thou art come at last;” but the latter returned the salutation with the most ceremonious etiquette, knowing, as he did, the world too well to treat as his equal one who, since their

last meeting, had been so much elevated in fortune. Napoleon, when alone with his old schoolfellow, intimated to him that he was much pleased with the discretion he had evinced, and immediately entrusted him with his private portfolio. The mode in which Napoleon conducted his voluminous correspondence both surprised and amused his new secretary. Only those letters which came by special courier were opened, all others were left in the correspondence basket, unattended to for three weeks. "I assure my reader," says Bourienne, "that we found four-fifths of the communications which must otherwise have been written settled to our hands by this delay." He forgets, however, in thus apologizing for Napoleon's want of courtesy to his correspondents, the amount of misery and sickness of hope deferred, which such a system must have produced.

Although the preliminaries of peace had been signed by Napoleon and the Austrian plenipotentiary, yet both parties delayed their completion in the hope of obtaining greater advantages by a temporizing course of policy. Napoleon, for instance, awaited anxiously intelligence of the advance of a division of the

French army from Germany, under general Moreau, with which he intended to co-operate, and march against the capital of Austria. The latter country, on the other hand, anticipated a diversion in her favour from some royalist intrigues which were carried on against the government at Paris. The movements in question, however, had not escaped the notice of Napoleon, and he was mainly instrumental in defeating them by the timely offer of his arms and money to the Directory. His supporters in Paris endeavoured, as a reward of Napoleon's services upon the occasion, to get him appointed one of the leading members of the government; but the Parisian authorities, jealous of such a rival, opposed the nomination on account of his youth, and Bonaparte seeing that—as he expressed it—the pear was not ripe, ceased for the time to press the matter, and turned his whole attention to the state of affairs in Italy.

The Austrian emperor, finding all hopes of a counter-movement in Paris at an end, wrote a letter with his own hand to Napoleon, expressing a well-feigned surprise that the negotiations for peace had proceeded so slowly, and reminding the general that on his decision the

happiness of many millions of men would depend. Napoleon concluded the treaty accordingly, not, however, it is to be feared, from the humane considerations plausibly brought before him in the emperor's letter, but simply because he found the season too much advanced for successful military operations. With a tortuous policy, far too common in cabinets, the Austrian emperor offered Napoleon's secretary a valuable estate if he would reveal his master's secrets ; and the fact coming to Napoleon's knowledge, he twitted the Austrian ambassador with it, to his no small confusion, in the presence of a large dinner-party.

In the meantime, Napoleon's independent course had become the object of considerable uneasiness to the government at Paris, who viewed with alarm his growing power and disposition to act without their authority. They accordingly, on more than one occasion, sent generals to his head-quarters, ostensibly on some matters of business, but secretly with a view to act as spies upon his conduct. Napoleon received them with courtesy, but speedily and emphatically showed that he knew he held the reins of power, and was determined to maintain the mastery. His independent spirit displayed

itself also in the manner in which he conducted the negotiations with the Austrian ambassador. The latter, in the draft of a treaty which he submitted to Napoleon, stated in the first article that the emperor recognised the existence of the French republic : " Strike that out," exclaimed Napoleon—" the fact is as clear as the sun." It is stated by some of his biographers, though denied by Bourienne, that, on another occasion, Napoleon, having an altercation with the ambassador about some of the terms in the treaty, to which the latter had declined to accede, snatching up a costly crystal vase, and hurling it to the ground, exclaimed, " If these terms are declined by thy master, I will shatter his empire to pieces, as I have done that jar !"

Towards the conclusion of his Italian negotiation, Josephine joined her husband, and was received with queenly pomp by the cities through which she passed. Napoleon, in company with her, made excursions to various parts of Italy, and, as if already seated on the throne, held a court at Montebello, which was thronged by gay and splendid crowds. In the midst of his grandeur, however, his pride was mortified by the receipt of a letter from one of

his sisters, who had married obscurely. "Do not cast us off," she wrote, "because we are poor; after all you are our brother." Napoleon, adds the narrator of the anecdote, threw the letter on the ground with a passionate gesture.

Having completed his negotiations with Austria, Napoleon made preparations for his return to Paris. Public expectation had been wound up to the highest pitch, and his arrival was everywhere looked forward to with the most impatient eagerness. He stopped for a short time at Rastadt to complete some negotiations; but he previously sent on to the Directory a standard, which had inscribed upon it his various victories, and which presented in a small compass a roll of triumphs seldom achieved by any single arm. Napoleon did not linger long at Rastadt, being convinced that events in Paris would ere long reach a crisis favourable to his ambitious projects. At every stage of his progress homewards he was received with triumphal honours, and all eyes were fixed with eagerness upon the youthful conqueror of Italy. "I found him," says a writer of the period, "very like his portraits—small in stature, thin, pale, and

having the appearance of one overwrought. There is much of the intellectual in his physiognomy, with an expression of habitual meditation, which reveals nothing that is passing within. In that thoughtful mind, in that daring head, it is impossible not to suppose some bold thoughts, which will influence the destinies of Europe."

Napoleon, on his arrival, was received with marked distinction by the Directory, and the population of Paris thronged to witness the ceremony of his public introduction to that body. Talleyrand introduced Bonaparte to the Directory, in a speech which contained much adroit flattery of his exploits. "So far from Napoleon's ambition becoming dangerous to the republic," hinted the subtle orator, "it is far more likely that we shall have to rouse him from his natural love of study to fresh enterprises for his country's glory." Napoleon replied, in a speech full of high-sounding, but vague expressions; and the Directory, in another speech, pointed him to the shores of England, as the quarter in which he should gather fresh laurels.

Napoleon remained very quiet at Paris, affecting the greatest simplicity in his mode

of living, and evidently making all his arrangements in such a manner, as to conceal from the public view those ambitious projects which he was secretly forming. He accepted the offer which was made to him by the Institute of Sciences to become a member of that body, and was more frequently to be seen at its meetings than anywhere else. They styled him, in compliment, "The Geometricalian of Battles, and the Mechanician of Victory." To an address from the members of this learned body, he replied: "The only true conquests are those gained by knowledge over ignorance; these alone cause no tears to flow." In his honour, the municipal authorities of Paris changed the former name of his street, and bestowed upon it the title of the "Street of Victory." Even in the midst of his triumph, however, he could not escape mortifications. He was in particular annoyed by the extravagance of Josephine, having found that during his absence she had fitted up his house with the choicest furniture, which had been supplied at the most unreasonable prices. More serious trouble threatened him. On one occasion, a woman came and gave him notice that a plot was formed against his life. Repairing

to the house where the conspiracy had been hatched, the woman herself was found murdered. It is impossible at this distance of time to trace the origin of this plot ; but the Directory, if not the authors of it, were at least in the habit of permitting atrocities of an equally enormous character to be perpetrated under their sanction.

Bonaparte's active mind could not remain long unoccupied, and he proceeded, accordingly, on a tour along the ports of France, with a view to make inquiries of fishermen, and others, acquainted with the coast of England, as to the best mode of disembarking troops for the invasion of that country. His investigations satisfied him that any scheme of the kind was impracticable. "The risk is too great," he said ; "I will not peril a French army on such a slender cast." Disappointed in his project of invasion, Napoleon turned his attention to more distant objects, and Egypt attracted his ambition. He considered that the occupation of that country would supply the place of the French West India colonies, which had been captured by the British ; and that by means of a settlement in Egypt, France might eventually deprive England of India.

The Directory were too apprehensive of Bonaparte's increasing influence at home, and too desirous of getting rid of him, to offer any opposition to his new scheme, although it was obvious that Austria would avail herself of his absence to rekindle the war in Italy, and that the fleet in which the troops might embark would run great risk of being captured by the British squadron. Napoleon, however, with his wonted impetuosity, made light of these difficulties. He pushed forward his preparations with unwearied diligence, and collected a large fleet, which England naturally imagined was intended for the invasion of its own shores. In the meanwhile, he made preparations for the colonization of Egypt, by collecting labourers and mechanics acquainted with the various trades and manufactures of Europe, and gave his secretary, Bourienne, instructions to prepare a library for him. The works selected were arranged in six divisions, Science, Geography, History, Poetry, Fiction, and Politics. In the latter division Napoleon, with the spirit of infidelity, classed together the Koran, the Vedam, and the Old and New Testaments.

A storm having dispersed the British squadron, which had been watching the movements

of Napoleon's expedition, orders were immediately given by him for the embarkation of his troops. The morning selected for the purpose was a most beautiful one, and a splendid sun illuminated the sea, which for the space of several miles was covered with vessels. Every breast beat high with expectation, while the mystery in which the ultimate objects of the expedition were shrouded, added to the interest of the scene. Proceeding on their voyage, the French fleet paused for a little at Malta, the surrender of which to Napoleon had been previously secured, the fidelity of the garrison having been sapped by means of secret agents dispatched for that purpose by the Directory. A few shots were fired for form's sake by those who manned the walls, but the defence was merely nominal. "It is well," said Napoleon, as he entered the huge gates of the fortress, "it is well that we had friends within these portals, we might otherwise not have found our entrance such an easy matter."

Having left a sufficient garrison in Malta, Napoleon proceeded on his voyage to Egypt. As he sailed along, he caught a view of the peaks of the distant mountains of Italy, a sight which awoke the most enthusiastic feelings in his mind,

recalling as it did his past successes there. Elba, the scene of his temporary exile in after days, was also observed in the distance, but no visions of future disaster dimmed the bright horizon of the youthful conqueror. At times, the whole of the squadron was ordered by him to defile under the stern of the admiral's ship in which he sailed. "It would be difficult," says Denon, the Egyptian traveller, who was present, "to convey a precise idea of our sensations as we approached this seat of power, dictating its decrees amidst three hundred sail of vessels, in the still silence of the night. The moon afforded just light enough. Five hundred persons were upon our deck, and the flapping of a bee's wing might have been heard. Our very respiration was suspended." Napoleon had taken with him a staff of literary and scientific men for the purpose of investigating the remarkable antiquities of Egypt ; during the passage, he occupied much of his time in conversing with them, and would himself select various topics upon which he called them to exercise their powers of discussion. Some of these topics have been recorded by Napoleon's biographer. At times, they related to questions of religion or government ; at others, to subjects of a more

speculative character, such, for instance, as whether the planets were inhabited. One evening the subject for discussion was, the truth or falsity of dreams, that topic having been suggested by the approach of the fleet towards the country in which the wonderful events in the history of Joseph had occurred.

These philosophical relaxations of Napoleon were sometimes interrupted by the unpleasant consciousness, that Nelson, the English admiral, was in the immediate vicinity, and the French admiral did not disguise his conviction that, in the event of the two fleets meeting, the result would be most disastrous to Napoleon's enterprise. Napoleon, however, made light of the admiral's fears, although they were on one occasion nearly verified. The English squadron approached within fifteen miles of the French fleet, but, in consequence of a dense fog, neither party was aware of the circumstance. Nelson having learned the capture of Malta, sailed for Alexandria, but not finding the French there, again quitted it, only two days before Napoleon arrived. The latter, on learning the narrow escape which he had made, gave instructions for the immediate disembarkation of his troops, although the sea was running very high, and

the operation therefore one of peculiar danger. Admiral Bruyes in vain endeavoured to dissuade him from making the attempt. The boats in which the soldiers embarked now rose, and now fell, with great violence from the action of the surf, and the men had to watch the favourable moment of leaping from the deck, when the surge of the wave brought the boat on a level with the ship. Several lives were lost by this mode of disembarkation; but in the eyes of Napoleon this was a matter of trivial importance, when compared with escaping from the British squadron.

The prospect which awaited the soldiers on their landing was sufficiently disheartening. "Not a tree, not a habitation," says Denon, "was to be seen. It was not merely nature in her saddest aspect, but nature in a state of desolation." Yet the soldiers, with all the vivacity of the French character, were able to preserve their buoyancy of spirit. Napoleon had promised each of them a grant of five acres of fertile land on their arrival in Egypt. "See," cried they, as they pointed to the barren sands, "see our five acres!" Napoleon had hoped to have found the garrison of Alexandria unprepared for his attack, but Nelson had put them

on their guard. A feeble show of resistance was accordingly made, but it was speedily overcome by the French troops, who carried the place by storm. They were greatly surprised, after capturing it, to find it little better than a mass of ruins. Napoleon lost no time in issuing a proclamation, in which he pretended that he had come to deliver the country from the tyranny of the Mameluke chiefs who hitherto had the government of it, subject to the control of the court at Constantinople. He pretended even that he came with the sanction of that court, and took care that the sultan at Constantinople should be deceived as much as possible with respect to his movements. He had proposed, before leaving France, that Talleyrand should go on an embassy to the Turkish court, in order to gloss over the designs of the French, in their expedition to Egypt; but that wily diplomatist was far too astute to allow his own safety to be perilled by so dangerous a mission.

Aware that the whole country would soon be roused to resistance by the intelligence of the capture of Alexandria, Napoleon lost no time in pushing forward, by land and water, a detachment of his forces, in order to attack Cairo. The division of the troops, which had

embarked upon the Nile, arrived at Cairo, after an engagement with a flotilla of the native vessels ; but the forces which marched by land did not reach the object of their destination without considerable difficulty. In their route to Cairo, they had to traverse one of the deserts, where their sufferings were extreme. When half-way on the journey, the troops paused two days for repose ; but the distress was so general and overwhelming, that even the bravest officers abandoned themselves to despair. The heat was intense, and there was a total absence of water except what was found at the bottom of some wells, which were nearly choked up with mud. The sand of the desert being very fine, and constantly blown about, filled the eyes, the ears, and the mouths of the soldiers ; while, to add to their discomfort, bands of the enemy, mounted on swift Arab chargers, hovered along their flanks, and cut off any stragglers. Upon one occasion, when parched with thirst, the soldiery were cheered and refreshed by seeing, at a short distance from them, what appeared to be a calm lake, surrounded with trees. Animated by the prospect, they advanced eagerly forward, until at last,

to their intense disappointment, they discovered that the whole was an optical illusion. They had been deceived by the well-known mirage of the desert.

On reaching Cairo, Napoleon found the Turkish army drawn out to meet him at the foot of the Pyramids. He delivered a stirring address to his troops, in which he reminded them, that from the summit of the ancient monuments before them, forty centuries gazed upon them. The contest which followed was short, but severe, ending in the total destruction of the Turkish forces, which, in vain, endeavoured to penetrate the compact squares of the French, bristling with bayonets, and vomiting forth flame and death.

A severe disaster, however, was awaiting Napoleon. Nelson, the English admiral, after scouring the Syrian coast, had returned to Alexandria, and finding the French fleet anchored in the bay of Aboukir, almost totally destroyed it. The French soldiery beheld with profound melancholy the destruction of the vessels by which they hoped to return to their native land. Many committed suicide, and others taunted their officers as they rode past, exclaiming, "There go the

murderers of the French!" Gradually, however, they became more reconciled to their position, and made arrangements for occupying the country, until reinforcements could be sent from France.\*

Napoleon employed his time in remodelling the government of Egypt; and administered its affairs in a manner which soon produced a degree of tranquillity to which it had been long a stranger. By way of conciliating the natives, he even assumed a Turkish dress; but took it off again on finding that it excited the laughter of his officers. Referring to this assumption of the Mussulman costume, and to the other encouragements which he gave to Mohammedanism, Napoleon afterwards said at St. Helena, "Egypt was well worth a pair of

\* Denon, the French traveller, has thus graphically described his emotions on beholding the beach covered with the dead bodies of the combatants at Aboukir. "But a few weeks before, replete with health, courage, and hope, they had torn themselves from the embrace of their weeping mothers, sisters, wives, and the feeble struggles of their tender infants. Those whom they left behind are still offering prayers for their safe return, and waiting with avidity the news of their triumphs. They are preparing feasts for them, and counting anxiously the moments until they arrive; while the objects of so much solicitude lie on a distant beach, parched by a burning sun, and their bones whitening on a foreign shore."

trowsers." Infidelity had seared his conscience, and deadened the sense of guilt which conduct so impious should have inspired.

In subsequent years, Napoleon related the following anecdote connected with his expedition to Egypt. "Josephine took a fancy to a little deformed dwarf, who was the only Chinese in France, and generally placed him behind her carriage. She took him to Italy; but as he was in the constant habit of pilfering, she wished to get rid of him. With that view, I put him on board of my Egyptian expedition, as Egypt was a lift to him half-way on his journey. The little fellow was entrusted with the care of my cellar, and I had no sooner crossed the desert, than he sold, at a very low price, two thousand bottles of delicious claret. His only object was to take money, and he was convinced that I should never come back. He was not at all disconcerted at my return, but came eagerly to meet me, and acquainted me, as he said, like a faithful servant, with the loss of my wine. The robbery was glaring, and I was much urged to have him hanged. I contented myself with having him discharged, and sending him to his own country. I thought if I hanged him, I was bound to do as much to

those in embroidered clothes, who had knowingly bought and drunk the wine."

Napoleon occupied his leisure in examining the various antiquities of Egypt. Several of the old canals were cleared ; and industry, which had been long dormant, received a strong impulse from his hands. He made several excursions across the desert, and was always much struck with the spectacle presented by the vast expanse of sands. "It seems to me," he said, "an image of immensity—it showed no boundaries, and had neither beginning nor end." Upon one of his trips across the desert, his carriage accompanied him—the first vehicle of that description, doubtless, which had ever traversed such a route. The evening having been very cold, Napoleon's attendants tried to kindle a fire ; but the only fuel they could find were the bones and skulls of the passengers who had perished in crossing the desert. The vapour arising from the flame thus kindled was so nauseous, that the party was obliged to retreat from it. The whole scene might furnish to a painter materials for a picture highly emblematic of Napoleon's career. On another occasion, when crossing the Red Sea, Bonaparte narrowly escaped being

drowned : "Had I," he said, flippantly, "been drowned like Pharaoh, it would have furnished all the preachers in Europe with an appropriate text!"

A different fate awaited Napoleon from that which befell the impenitent Egyptian monarch; but it was one which, in an equally striking manner, vindicated the dealings of God with man. Chained to the rock of St. Helena, he became an example of that retribution which, even in this world, seldom fails to await those who violate the laws which God, as the moral Governor of the universe, has imposed on his creatures. How, in the midst of his selfish exultation, would it have humbled him to have known, that, in the conquests which he ascribed to his own arm, he was insensibly fulfilling the decrees of that Almighty Being on whose authority he trampled! To Napoleon, with awful emphasis, may indeed be applied, with a slight alteration, the language addressed of old to the haughty Assyrian conqueror. "He saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent. —Shall the ax boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it?—Wherfore

it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks," Isa. x. 13, etc.

## CHAPTER IV.

Napoleon invades Syria—Is repulsed at Acre, and compelled to return to Egypt—Receives intelligence from France, which leads him to embark secretly for that country—The voyage—His enthusiastic reception in France—His conspiracy to attain supreme power—Remarkable scenes in the French Chambers—His attempt is crowned with success.

NAPOLEON's situation in Egypt was such as would have inspired dejection in any mind less nerved and determined than his own. The fleet by which he had hoped to transport his troops to France was destroyed; a hostile squadron cruised in his sight, and a mere handful of men occupied a large country, ready to spring up into open revolt at the first favourable opportunity. Napoleon's courage, however, rose with the emergency; and his decision and energy shone conspicuously in the hour of trial and difficulty. Intelligence had reached him that an armament from Constantinople was fitting out against him and that

the Russians, suspending their ancient hostility against Turkey, had joined in the attack, while the British were making preparations for the descent of a body of troops from India. In the midst of such dangers, Napoleon could find time for fresh schemes of ambition. He planned an invasion of Syria, intending, after rousing the various tribes of that country into rebellion against their rulers, to march at their head to Constantinople, and cut his way to France, conquering Austria in his homeward route. "Often," says Bourienne, "would he be seen with a large map stretched out before him, pondering these ambitious projects."

A check was imposed on Napoleon's high-flown schemes by Djezzar, the pasha of Acre, who resolutely refused to fall in with Napoleon's views, and beheaded the officer whom the latter had sent to treat with him. Napoleon determined, however, on attempting the invasion of Syria, and marched upon it with about five thousand troops. As his soldiers passed from the burning deserts of Egypt into the fertile plains of Syria, they could with difficulty believe that the green fields which they saw were not the result of the mirage, by which, on former occasions, they had been deceived. The land which

they now trod was invested with many solemn associations, as having been the scene of the most interesting events recorded in the pages of Scripture. No reverential feelings were excited, however, in the minds of Napoleon's soldiery. They were steeped in infidelity, and visited with indifference spots which have furnished materials for sublime contemplation to the Christian traveller.

Napoleon, in after life, one evening called for the Bible, and read to his followers the book of Joshua, observing, at various towns and villages, mentioned by the sacred historian: "I encamped here—I gave battle there—I carried this place by assault." In passing through the Syrian deserts, the soldiers were tormented with thirst, and murmured bitterly against their leaders. The town of Gaza, associated with the history of Samson, and Jaffa, the Joppa of Cornelius, were captured by them. Jaffa having been vigorously defended by its garrison, was given up by Napoleon to the sword. The carnage which ensued was truly horrible; and Napoleon dispatched two officers to appease, if possible, the fury of the soldiery, and to save the lives of such of the inhabitants as had taken no active part in the defence of the place.

A body of three thousand Albanian troops surrendered themselves to these officers on the express condition that their lives should be spared, and were brought to Napoleon. He received his officers with a stern air, and inquired what they meant by saving the lives of so many soldiers, whom he could not liberate without enabling them to join the enemy, and for whom he could afford neither provisions nor guards? A council of war was immediately held, in order to decide on the fate of these unhappy men; and it was at last reluctantly determined that they should be put to death. Napoleon agreed to this decision; and the miserable captives were marched down to the beach, and there shot to a man. Their bones, collected in a heap, might, until lately, have been seen bleaching in the sun, a terrible monument of the horrors of war. The intelligence of the massacre of Jaffa rang throughout Europe, and must ever remain a dark blot upon Napoleon's character. By all the laws of war, no less than on every principle of humanity, the prisoners were entitled to have their lives spared, after having surrendered on that condition.

Napoleon, after this dreadful event, advanced

to the siege of Acre, which, from its peculiar position, commanded the whole of Syria, and presented an impassable obstacle to his progress, and to the prosecution of his ambitious projects. So far did the latter extend, that Napoleon had even dispatched a messenger to India, to sound the well-known Tippoo Saib, as to the practicability of stirring up a revolt against the British power; an attempt which happily did not succeed. At Acre, an unexpected check to Napoleon was opposed in the person of sir Sidney Smith, an officer who had recently escaped from a French prison. Again and again did Napoleon, with all the energy which wounded pride could inspire, advance to attack the skilful arrangements of this officer; but as often was he compelled to retire. Finding, at last, that his presence was urgently required in Egypt, he most reluctantly, and with all the stings of mortified vanity and disappointed ambition, was obliged, for the first time in his career, to submit to defeat, and withdraw his forces. The soldiers having no longer the hope of conquest to stimulate them, committed, during their homeward march, a series of atrocities. They carried torches in their hands, with which they wantonly

set on fire the rich crops on every side of them. Unable themselves to make use of these bounties of Providence, they displayed a malevolent desire to render them unserviceable to others. The selfish character of the human heart was, also, developed in an awfully affecting manner. Wounded officers, after being carried for a short time by their attendants, were thrown out of their litters, and left to perish. The common soldiers, worn out with fatigue, sank down on the sands of the desert, and appealed in vain to the sympathies of their companions, who passed by them making some brutal jest on their misfortunes.

In the course of this march, Napoleon narrowly escaped assassination from one of the wandering Arabs who lay concealed in a thicket at the road-side, and fired at him as he passed, without however wounding him. Napoleon's soldiers drove the man back into the sea in order that they might take a more deliberate aim at him, but he managed to escape the effects of their first fire and swim out to a rock in the distance. After vain attempts had been made to dislodge him, Napoleon directed his other troops as they came up, "not to miss that droll fellow on the rock," and the assassin was eventually shot.

During Napoleon's retreat to Cairo, that scourge of the east, the plague, broke out in his ranks. Finding himself obliged to abandon the town of Jaffa, in the hospital of which were several soldiers hopelessly ill of the disease, he ordered opium to be administered to them in order to produce death. Napoleon assigned as his motive for this conduct, his desire to deliver the sufferers from the tortures which the Turks invariably inflicted on all the French prisoners whom they captured. Although there is little doubt that this reason was the true one, yet the action was one wholly indefensible—not to do evil that good may come being a Divine rule, which cannot be broken without eventually producing aggravated misery. The number of the soldiers who died from the effects of the opium has been differently stated by different writers, some making it as high as five hundred, others as low as sixty ; but the estimate of the action will not be affected by such a calculation. "Duties are ours, consequences are God's," is the maxim which alone can determine a Christian's conduct in cases analogous to that which has just been described. An adherence to this rule will be found not only to harmonize

with the Divine law, but, ultimately, far better to promote our temporal advantage than any short-sighted deviation from the path of rectitude.

Upon re-entering Cairo, Bonaparte, with his wonted disregard of truth when falsehood was more convenient, announced his return by a series of lying bulletins, in which he magnified his successes and concealed his disasters. A Turkish army having soon afterwards been landed from Constantinople, he defeated it with immense loss to the enemy: in the midst of this triumph, however, he received intelligence which damped all his satisfaction. In return for some civilities, the admiral commanding the British squadron which had acted as a convoy to the Turkish troops, had sent Napoleon some German newspapers. This was a great treat to him, as for ten months he had been entirely shut out from European intelligence. The journals were therefore perused with avidity, but immediately on reading them Napoleon discovered that the Austrians, availing themselves of his absence, had re-conquered Italy, and thus neutralized all the effects of his skill and energy. "Miserable creatures!" he exclaimed, as he flung the journal down, "all

the fruits of our victories have disappeared.— I must be gone."

Napoleon shrewdly calculated that the moment for seizing the supreme power in France had now arrived, and that the nation, disgusted with the feeble rule of the Directory, would eagerly welcome his return. Instructions were at once given to a few officers to make strictly secret preparations for his departure, which they executed with alacrity, being only afraid that their excess of joy would divulge their object to those around them. On the 23rd August, 1799, Bonaparte, with great privacy, and accompanied by a small body of attendants, embarked in two small frigates, the remnant of that splendid fleet which had brought him from France. He had carefully concealed from the army at large, and even from Kleber, whom he had appointed to command in his absence, the intention which he had formed of returning. The intelligence, therefore, that he had left Egypt, was received with the deepest dissatisfaction ; and it must ever remain as a stain on Napoleon, that after having led his army into danger, he abandoned it in its difficulties to pursue his own selfish objects. Napoleon's reflections must indeed

have been bitter enough as he returned to his native land. No crowds of admiring spectators, like those which had witnessed his departure, now lined the shore ; a few attendants only furtively crept along, trembling at every step, lest their flight should be detected. Instead of a noble squadron of vessels, covering the deep for miles, there were only two small frigates, thinly manned, and liable at every moment to fall a prey to the enemy.

During the whole voyage, Napoleon remained in a constant state of disquietude, from his apprehensions of being captured by some of the English cruisers. He appears to have been glad, accordingly, to seek refuge from thought in the frivolities of the card table, at which, says his biographer, he cheated without scruple, always, however, returning any money which he gained. After touching at his native island, Corsica, Napoleon at last drew near to the French coast : here, however, towards evening, he came close upon an English squadron, and narrowly escaped capture. During the anxious night which followed this adventure, Napoleon alone retained his composure, and gave orders at a time when the commander of his vessel was paralysed with fear. When the wished-

for morning at last broke, the English vessels were far in the distance, while, happily for Napoleon, the coast of France was seen in the immediate vicinity:

On the 9th October, 1799, he entered the bay of Fréjus: at first the batteries fired upon his vessels, which, from long absence, had been unable to reply to the private signals made to them from the shore; upon observing, however, the demonstrations of enthusiastic joy made by the crew, the firing soon ceased, and the report having quickly spread that Bonaparte had returned, the bay was immediately covered with boats, filled with the inhabitants of the place, who welcomed him with the greatest cordiality. As the vessels had just arrived from Egypt, a strict quarantine ought properly to have been enforced, but the people hurried him on shore, exclaiming, "We prefer the plague to the Austrians." The telegraph was immediately set to work, and his arrival was announced to the metropolis, where the news were received with the same demonstrations of lively joy that had been shown in the provinces. So disheartened had the nation become in consequence of the successes of the Austrians, and the state of anarchy which prevailed at home, that it

was anxious to obtain a change of rulers, even at the expense of abandoning all the visions of freedom cherished since the revolution.

Napoleon, almost immediately on his arrival, waited upon the Directory. The interview on both sides was an anxious one. The Directory dreaded meeting him, lest he should reproach them for the loss of Italy: Napoleon, on the other hand, had good grounds for apprehending their censure, and even an impeachment, for having abandoned his army in Egypt. The meeting on both sides was, accordingly, cold, hollow, and constrained; and each party separated from the other full of distrust and dislike. The public, however, did not share the sentiments of their rulers, but evinced the greatest attachment to Napoleon. Whenever he moved abroad, great anxiety was evinced to catch a glimpse of his person. Napoleon, with his profound knowledge of human nature, took care to increase this feeling, by stimulating curiosity, instead of gratifying it. He carefully kept away from places of general resort, and when he did appear in public, it was always in a dress which, although apparently unassuming, reminded the spectator of his military success. At one time, he would go out

wrapped in a simple great-coat of grey cloth ; but a Turkish scimitar suspended to his side, recalled to memory the battle of the Pyramids, and the conquest of Egypt. On other occasions, Napoleon would appear in the costume of a member of the Institute of Science, and would be seen listening eagerly to the conversation of men of learning, as if literary research and the prosecution of knowledge were the supreme objects of his desire.

Very different matters from mathematics and astronomy were, meanwhile, occupying his attention. By means of his agents, he had secretly sounded the leading military officers of the day, and had procured their support to his scheme for attaining supreme authority. Working on the passions of two of the leading members of the Directory, by promising them unlimited power under a new régime, he secured their assistance also. So ripe, indeed, was the state of public affairs for some change in the government, that the various plans we have adverted to had attained maturity within eight days from his arrival in Paris. Napoleon possessed military influence enough to have openly contested the supreme power, and effected his object by force of arms,

but, with his usual policy, he was desirous of appearing to carry popular opinion along with him. The Directory, as we have already seen, he had, in part at least, gained over to his views ; there still remained, however, the two representative bodies, called the Council of Ancients, and the Council of Five Hundred. By means of liberal promises, he succeeded in raising a strong party in his favour in both of these assemblies, and he had reason to hope that they might be induced to pass a decree investing him with the chief authority in the state. For the sake of preserving appearances, it was arranged, with a shocking disregard of truth, that general Bonaparte should wait upon them, and pretend that he had received intelligence of a dangerous conspiracy, involving perils to the republic of so imminent a character, as to justify them in investing him with dictatorial powers.

The eventful morning at last arrived, on which it was to be decided whether this web of deceit should be successful, and whether Napoleon was to rise to eminence, or be precipitated to ruin. The previous evening was spent by him in making final efforts to win all the five directors over to his views. Two

were favourable ; two inveterately hostile ; and the fifth remained neutral. On the morning of action, Napoleon's house was filled to overflowing with the military officers attached to his interest. Attended by this devoted band, and a body of troops, assembled ostensibly for a review, he rode to the spot where the two public councils had met. His whole demeanour at this trying moment showed that wonderful composure which he could command at times of the greatest peril. "He was calm," says a spectator of the scene, "as on the morning of some grand battle." On arriving at the Council of Ancients, Napoleon found that all was not proceeding so smoothly as he had been led to anticipate. Some members of the democratic section had obtained knowledge of his designs, and commenced a warm discussion, in which his ambitious projects were openly denounced. Awed by the opposition, Napoleon's secret supporters began to lose heart, and everything looked most unfavourable to his views. "Here you have things in a fine mess," said one of Napoleon's old generals to him. "Be calm," the latter said ; "matters looked worse at the battle of Arcola."

Napoleon now entered the hall of the

assembly, a few friends accompanying him, and one or two soldiers lining the entrance. The president called upon Napoleon to explain to the members the nature of the plot of which he was said to have received intelligence. He immediately commenced a confused harangue, which bore no reference to the question which had been addressed to him. At the conclusion of his speech, the president replied, that the house was still without any clear information as to the plot in question, and called for more explanation. Napoleon once more commenced a series of broken and incoherent expressions, and ended by observing, that he marched accompanied by the gods of Fortune and War. His friends, perceiving the bad effect which this effusion produced upon his audience, pulled his coat, saying, "Retire, general, you no longer know what you are saying." Napoleon hastily retreated, therefore, exclaiming, "Let all who love me, follow me!" The soldiers, of course, offered no opposition to his retiring. "Truly," says one who was present, "I know not what might have been the consequence had the president, seeing the general retire, said, 'Guards, let no one pass.' Instead of sleeping next day in

the palace of the Luxembourg, he might have finished his course on the scaffold."

In the other assembly, called the Council of Five Hundred, matters were proceeding still more unfavourably for Bonaparte. Intimation of his ambitious designs had reached this body, and the most violent denunciations were uttered against him. At the time when the storm was at its height, Napoleon entered the hall, and his appearance was the signal for extreme agitation. Cries of "Cromwell, Cromwell!"—"You have tarnished your laurels, Bonaparte!"—"Down with the dictator!"—broke out on all sides. Napoleon ineffectually endeavoured to make himself heard, and two of his soldiers who followed him, alarmed for his safety, lifted him up and bore him out of the assembly. Napoleon's brother, Lucien, was the president of the council, and he vainly tried to calm the meeting, which insisted that he should put to the vote a measure proclaiming Bonaparte an outlaw. Lucien resisted this attempt, and finding that the assembly still demanded the matter to be proceeded with, he renounced his office of president, and left the meeting.

On reaching the outer courts, he found Napoleon much agitated, and addressing his

troops with the inquiry whether he could depend upon them. Lucien availed himself of the opportunity, and hesitating not a moment at the sacrifice of truth, exclaimed, " Soldiers, the president of the Council of Five Hundred announces to you that men with daggers interrupt their deliberations. He authorizes you to employ force, and declares the assembly dissolved." The troops hesitated for a moment as to obeying this request, but were re-assured by Lucien, who, pulling out a dagger, declared, with theatrical gesture, that he would plunge it into his brother's bosom if he believed that he meditated any injury to the liberties of his country. The troops moved immediately forward, and entered the assembly, the members of which beheld with amazement this new danger. Some of them having had the courage to remonstrate with the soldiers, the latter again hesitated to advance ; but at this critical moment a fresh battalion arrived, and the officers exclaiming, " Charge !" the members everywhere fled in alarm, some leaping through the windows.

A few deputies who had been in the interest of Napoleon, met after the dispersion of their companions, and passed a series of resolutions,

declaring that Napoleon and his troops had deserved well of their country! They further proceeded to decree the assemblies suspended, and the government to be vested in three officers, to be called consuls, who were to consist of Napoleon, and two others, acting ostensibly as checks upon him, but in reality mere cyphers. At the time these resolutions were passed, the hall of the Council of Five Hundred presented a very different scene from what it had done in the morning. A few deputies were huddled together in a corner, while some lackeys stood with candles beside them, by the dim light of which resolutions were passed, the effect of which was to invest one man with despotic power, and thus terminate the French revolution, which had been brought about at so much expense of life and property.

A proclamation was published next morning by Bonaparte, in which, with the most flagrant disregard of truth, he announced that the deliberations of the councils had been interrupted by factious deputies, who had used daggers, and that, after these had been expelled, the majority had passed the decrees to which we have alluded. The people, however, were not desirous of canvassing too minutely the state-

ments which Napoleon issued. By almost all classes his accession to power was hailed with joy, for men were everywhere wearied out by the misery and anarchy which had been entailed upon them by that very revolution which, a few years before, they had been anxious to effect. A striking lesson is, indeed, given in the memorable events of this period in Napoleon's career. They confirm the truth taught on so many occasions by history, that popular anarchy necessarily degenerates into military despotism; and impress upon all classes of the community the wisdom of seeking improvements in their social condition by sober and well-considered means, instead of hastily perilling existing benefits for precipitate and untried change.

## CHAPTER V.

Napoleon's government as first consul—War with Austria—His celebrated passage of the Alps—Battle of Marengo—Peace restored—Napoleon aims at imperial power—His improvements during peace—Public works—Council of state—His system of espionage.

NAPOLEON, finding himself in possession of supreme power, lost no time in applying his powerful mind to devise means for extricating France from the complicated embarrassments into which the weak and corrupt rule of the Directory had plunged it. As he daily came into possession of fresh facts, which illustrated the rapacious principles upon which his predecessors had carried on the government, his indignation against them knew no bounds. “It cannot be doubted,” he exclaimed, “that the first magistrates of the republic embezzled the property of the community. Everything was put by them to the hammer—places,

stores, provisions, clothing, military effects. Is there no way to make them disgorge?" The financial and social condition of France was, indeed, most alarming. Taxes of all kinds could with difficulty be collected; specie had disappeared from circulation; and so much reduced were the resources of the public treasury, that Napoleon, upon his accession to power, could scarcely find the means of fitting out a courier. In La Vendée, the flames of civil war were again breaking out; and abroad, the allies had not only wrung from France several of its conquests, but, after defeating its troops in repeated engagements, were actually menacing invasion and a march to Paris, for the purpose of replacing the Bourbons on the throne.

It was now that the genius of Napoleon shone more brilliantly in his schemes of government than it had previously done in war. He summoned to his councils all the men of talent who remained in France, without reference to their political distinctions, and attached them to his service by promises of liberal rewards, which were faithfully bestowed when the public treasury became replenished. He reformed the system of finances which had been adopted by

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the Directory, and soon introduced order and regularity where all had been confusion. The insurgents in La Vendée he succeeded in suppressing, partly by conciliation, and partly by military force ; but the more difficult task remained of contending with the governments of England and Austria, which still continued hostile to France. Napoleon, well aware that his own power required repose for its establishment, made overtures of peace to England, in a letter written with his own hand, and addressed to king George III. These overtures were warmly discussed in both houses of parliament ; but so strong was the feeling entertained on all sides of Napoleon's insincerity, and so general the conviction that his desire for peace was only a cloak for more ambitious designs, to be brought forward at a convenient season, that his propositions were negatived by a large majority. He made also an application to Austria, for a congress to settle the terms of peace, but the offer was rejected. "Shall I be accused by posterity," said Napoleon, "of having been too fond of war ? It can be shown that I always received the first attack." This assertion was verified in the campaign which was now about to commence, and the historian is at first perplexed to decide

whether the bloodshed which followed ought properly to be laid at the door of Napoleon, or of his opponents. From the whole tenor of Napoleon's past and subsequent conduct, however, there is little reason to suppose that he courted peace upon this occasion for its own sake, or for any other reason than that it would enable him to consolidate his power, and recruit his materials for farther aggression.

Unable to contend with the maritime forces of England, he directed all his efforts to strike an effectual blow at Austria, and the plan which he adopted for this purpose was highly original and able. The Austrian troops occupied the passes leading from Italy to France, where a few dispirited troops still kept them in check, and prevented an actual invasion of the latter country. The idea which now occurred to Napoleon was, to search for some passage over the Alps, and, in the event of one being discovered, secretly to transport an army across it, and, by descending unexpectedly in the rear of the Austrian forces, to enclose the latter between two armies, and thus destroy them. One morning, Napoleon's secretary, on entering his apartment, found him with the large map of Italy unrolled before him, while

he was busily engaged in sticking pins in it, their heads being covered with black and red sealing-wax. In this manner he planned out each step of his future progress ; and "greatly astonished," adds the secretary, "was I to find myself four months afterwards, with Napoleon's victorious army, at the point which he had indicated on the map." This was the first conception of that memorable passage of the Alps, which must ever be regarded as one of the most remarkable exploits of Napoleon, as well as an illustration of the triumphs which perseverance can obtain over obstacles apparently insuperable.

The path which Napoleon now proposed to traverse, was one hitherto considered inaccessible to any large body of men, and resorted to chiefly by smugglers, and the few solitary travellers who had nerve sufficient to face its dangers. "The road," says a writer, "lay along airy ridges of rock and eternal snow, where the goatherd, the hunter of the chamois, and the outlawed smuggler, are alone accustomed to venture ; amidst precipices, where to slip a foot is death ; beneath glaciers, from which the percussion of a musket-shot is often sufficient to hurl an avalanche ; and across chasms, caked

over with frost or snow-drift." Such was the route which Napoleon prepared to traverse. The engineer appointed to survey the road, reported that the passage of an army, although difficult and dangerous, would still be possible. "Then," said Napoleon, "let us proceed at once." Modern writers have endeavoured to represent this expedition as much less difficult than his admirers have pretended it to be; but after making all deductions, sufficient evidence still remains to prove that the route must have been eminently perilous. A party of dragoons was swept away by the fall of an avalanche, and often, in the course of their march, the soldiers arrived at obstacles which seemed to prevent all farther progress.

On such occasions, Napoleon himself was accustomed to advance, and by his presence inspire his troops with fresh energy and courage. He is well-known in connexion with this expedition from a portrait by the celebrated painter David, which represents him as mounted on a fiery charger, and galloping along the precipitous ravines of the Alps. He travelled, however, in a more homely manner, upon a sure-footed mule, which he had obtained from a neighbouring convent, and attended by a peasant

as a guide. With the latter he conversed familiarly, and inquired what he wished to make him happy. Napoleon, at parting, not a little surprised his humble companion by giving an order to him, through which he was enabled to obtain the various things which he had specified as the objects of his wishes. The army, in passing, halted for a while at the convent of St. Bernard, where refreshments were served out by the monks. Napoleon himself partook of a repast prepared for him at this well-known convent, and found time briefly to read some of the old works in their library. After difficulties of a varied character had been surmounted, the whole army safely crossed the Alps, and reached the plains of Italy.

Here, however, an unexpected obstacle had almost neutralized their exertions. In a narrow defile, which it was necessary for the army to pass, stood the small fortress of Bard, which, being manned by an Austrian garrison, offered a determined resistance to Napoleon's further progress. Various unsuccessful attempts were made to carry the fort by storm, and for a time it seemed as if this petty obstacle would have counteracted all the benefits derivable from his bold expedition. A path was at last, however,

discovered amidst the neighbouring rocks, over which the troops could march out of the reach of the enemy's fire. Napoleon himself soon afterwards arrived on the spot, and, after attentively examining the fortress with a telescope, pointed out a mode of attacking it. The result justified his skill. The danger was surmounted, and the French marched forward to the attack of the Austrian commander, Melas, who little expected to be assailed in the rear by such formidable opponents.

After some preliminary engagements, in which victory declared itself in favour of the French, a battle took place at Marengo. The result was for a long time doubtful, and seemed to incline to the Austrians. At last, however, when everything appeared lost to Napoleon, a charge of cavalry made by Kellerman, one of his generals, changed the aspect of the day, and caused the total defeat of his antagonists. It was one of the stains on Napoleon's character, that he was jealous of any one getting the reputation of having contributed to his success. Kellerman was accordingly never promoted, and received from Napoleon, after the conclusion of the battle, only the cold salutation, "Kellerman, you made a pretty good charge to-day." "Yes,"

replied the latter, "it has placed the crown on your head;" the pungent truth of this rejoinder was never forgiven. Overwhelmed by the battle of Marengo, and by another victory at Hohenlinden, Austria was glad to conclude peace with Napoleon; and at a period somewhat later, England, forsaken by her continental allies, desisted from hostilities, and signed, at Amiens, in 1802, the terms of a pacification, which unfortunately was not destined to be durable. Thus, for a season, was hushed the dreadful voice of war, and peace was permitted again to revisit the desolated earth.

It is in the interval of peace which followed the treaty of Amiens, that the higher qualities of Napoleon appear most fully displayed, and that we discover how much they might have contributed to the happiness of mankind, had they been directed by the wisdom that cometh from above, instead of being governed by a blind and selfish ambition. Within six days after his being appointed to the consulate, he paid an unexpected visit to the prisons of Paris, and ordered various abuses which he discovered to be corrected. Speaking of prison-reform in after-years at St. Helena, he stated that it was one of his dreams, when the grand

events of war should be terminated, to distribute, as "spies of virtue," twelve real philanthropists, who should investigate all prison-abuses, and report to him in person. This, however, turned out to be mere speculation, as the period for carrying out the scheme never arrived.

From the moment of his accession to the consulate, Bonaparte's views were unremittingly directed towards the acquisition of imperial power, but his steps in this direction were marked with great circumspection. He began his first attack at republican institutions by distributing amongst the army honorary sabres and fusils. He wrote a letter to a sergeant of grenadiers, to whom the first presentation was made, styling him "my brave companion," and inviting him to visit him at his palace at Paris. The whole army rang with applause at the condescension of the first consul, and the ulterior object of Napoleon was overlooked. At a later period, this presentation of sabres ripened into the institution well-known by the title of the "Legion of Honour," and familiarized the people with the re-introduction of an order of nobility. "These things look well," said Napoleon one day, when he observed the various orders which dangled at the breasts of the foreign ambassadors; "we

must have something of the same kind. They may call them bawbles, but it is with bawbles that mankind is to be governed."

Bonaparte proceeded next to make preparations for transferring his residence to the Tuilleries, which had been that of the kings of France. In this proceeding, he showed his profound dissimulation, and while preserving all the phrases of liberty, he secretly forged the fetters of arbitrary power. In order to amuse the citizens with dreams of freedom, he ordered a statue of Brutus, the enemy of tyrants, to be erected in the Tuilleries. The death of Washington, the American general, having been about this time made known in France, Napoleon issued a proclamation, panegyrizing his efforts on behalf of liberty, and putting the standards of the army into mourning for ten days in honour of his memory. After the public mind had thus been artfully prepared, Napoleon, in public procession, entered the Tuilleries, over the gates of which were inscribed, as if in mockery, the words decreed by the National Convention in 1792, "Royalty has been abolished in France, never to be re-established." Looking out the next day from the windows of the palace, Bonaparte reminded his secretary,

Bourienne, of the insults which ten years before they had beheld the mob inflict on the unfortunate Louis XVI. "Let them try that again," he significantly added.

It was his favourite relaxation at this period to disguise himself, and, in company with his secretary, enter shops, and while making purchases ask the parties behind the counter what they thought of "this farcical Bonaparte." "Very much pleased," adds the party who accompanied him, "was he upon one occasion, when he was chased out of a shop in consequence of having spoken too disrespectfully of himself to the party who kept it." Napoleon also, at this period, commenced a series of grand buildings and public works, which remain far better trophies of his enterprise than his sanguinary battles. At the harbours of Cherbourg and Antwerp he planned excavations and labours of almost Egyptian vastness. He ordered canals to be dug, bridges to be erected, and marshes to be drained. Roads were begun in the passes of the Alps, by which the Simplon and Mount Cenis were rendered easy of passage; and Paris was beautified with many structures, not only pleasing to the eye, but eminently conducive to the public health and convenience.

The suddenness with which these works were begun, was as remarkable as the energy with which they were brought to a conclusion. Observing from the windows of his palace that a quay on the left bank of the Seine had been unfinished, he dictated on the spot an order for the erection of a suitable esplanade. Detained, on another occasion, by the absence of a ferry-boat, he wrote, "Let a bridge be erected here in the course of next year," an order which was punctually fulfilled. The cannon taken from the enemy was melted down, and moulded into a large pillar, which bore in relief representations of the various battles in which he had been engaged. Fountains, erected in the leading streets of the metropolis, cooled the air, and furnished, at the same time, an abundant supply of water to the lower orders; while triumphal arches, magnificent gardens, and splendid picture-galleries gratified the inhabitants of the capital, long unaccustomed to such displays of magnificence.

While acknowledging the genius displayed by Napoleon in all these improvements, and giving him the full credit to which he is entitled for them, we are compelled to add, that they were carefully made subservient by him to his

schemes for arriving at absolute power. He but gilded the fetters with which he meant to bind the volatile inhabitants of France. Jealous of a free press, one of his first steps was to silence the newspapers of Paris, by allowing only those devoted to his interest to be published. With other free institutions he made similar havoc. The popular assemblies were suppressed, and their place supplied by a senate and a tribunate; the former, a convenient body, which did little more than register Napoleon's decrees; the latter, an institution principally filled by his own creatures, and which, while declaiming, and affecting a show of independence on little matters, left his leading aggrandizements on liberty entirely unopposed. A shadow of popular representation was still left to the people, but by a number of checks it was effectually prevented from ever offering any serious hindrance to Bonaparte's wishes.

The most celebrated of his assemblies was, however, the Council of State, which was composed of men eminent for talent, who discussed, in their first stages, the various measures intended eventually to be the subject of legislation. Napoleon, when not occupied in his military campaigns, generally attended these

councils, and took a lively interest in their proceedings. Considerable freedom of discussion appears to have been allowed to the members, it being well known, of course, that the debates would never reach the ear of the public. Napoleon, on finding some of his favourite projects out-voted, would good-humouredly observe, "Well, I suppose I must be in the wrong." At other times, throwing himself back, he would exhibit various symptoms of impatience, and hack away, with his pen-knife, at the tapestry or carving of his arm-chair. When a speaker of more than usual prolixity detained the meeting, Napoleon would scribble whimsical sketches on the papers lying before him, or thrusting out his hand eagerly, would invite some member to lend him his snuff-box, which, after being played with for a little while, would find its way into his pocket. "What have we here?" said Josephine, one evening, to her husband, as she pulled out from his coat about a dozen snuff-boxes, which, in a fit of abstraction, he had carried off; "do you intend to deal in these articles?" The owners had no reason, however, to complain of the loss, for Napoleon generally sent, in lieu of those which he had taken, others of a much more valuable description.

Several of the members of Napoleon's council have expressed their admiration at the mental vigour which he displayed on these occasions. Sometimes the debates would extend from eleven in the morning till nine at night, but at the conclusion he would appear to be as fresh as at the commencement, and that, too, at a time when other members were ready to sink with weariness and fatigue. A glass of water and sugar seemed sufficient to recruit his energies, and at the conclusion of a lengthened debate, he would, in a few clear and luminous sentences, present the substance of it to the members for their decision. When he perceived a member hesitate to express his opinions fully, he would exclaim, energetically, "Speak boldly, sir; do not mutilate your ideas; say what you have to say freely; we are here by ourselves." At another time, he would interrupt the speakers with some humorous remark: "Where did you get all that learning from?" he suddenly said to a general of artillery, who was quoting the opinions of the old French political economists, a class which Napoleon despised. "From yourself, sire," said the interrupted speaker. "Impossible, my dear general; I have always thought that if there were a monarchy of granite, the chimeras of political

economists would soon reduce it to powder. Go, general, you must have fallen asleep in your office, and have dreamed all this." "As to falling asleep in our offices," replied the speaker, "I defy any one to do that with you. You plague us too much for that." The whole meeting burst into laughter, and "Napoleon," adds the narrator of the anecdote, "laughed louder than any one."

A repulsive portion of the machinery of government instituted by Napoleon was the system of secret police, entrusted to the care of the celebrated Fouché, a man notorious for the absence of all moral principle. By means of this abominable system, the privacy of domestic life was invaded, and deception of every kind fostered. Anxious to show their vigilance, the agents employed by Fouché too often nurtured crime instead of suppressing it. Amongst the higher as well as the lower classes, corruption was introduced ; and even Josephine herself received a large pension from the prime minister of police as the price of her husband's secrets.

Selfishness was the mainspring of all Napoleon's plans for conducting the affairs of government. He openly avowed, that he knew only one principle on which mankind could be

ruled, and that was by appealing to their sense of self-interest. By the children of this world, Napoleon will be commended for his wisdom in adopting such a maxim. An experimental acquaintance with the word of God, however, would have corrected such a false conclusion. It is the peculiar glory of Christianity, that it extirpates selfishness, substituting in its room the nobler principle of love. Influenced by this generous motive, the Christian is supplied with an incentive to exertion far more inspiring than any which the selfish policy of the world can give. It is a love which flows from a sense of unnumbered benefits, received from a Divine benefactor; a love which causes the heart of its possessor to overflow with gladness, and abound in schemes of benevolence to all around. Reader, wouldest thou possess this blessed spirit? Turn, we beseech thee, to the cross of Christ, for it is there that it is best learned! Gaze on the amazing example of love which it exhibits, until thy heart is melted with love in return! Hear the gracious invitation addressed to thee, by Him who hangs upon that tree: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Cast thyself down before

him in deep self-abasement, believing that he is able and willing to save thee to the uttermost ; and that on his cross he hath borne all the mighty burden of thy guilt away. Implore, in fervent prayer, the gift of his Holy Spirit to create thy heart anew, and to deliver thee from the power of every sin. Thus, believing in him with all thy heart, shall love spring up within thy breast—a love which shall prove itself sincere by holy fruits, and which shall prepare thee for that heavenly inheritance, where this blessed principle shall for ever flourish in undecaying vigour.

## CHAPTER VI.

Napoleon's efforts to remodel the laws of France—His attention to public education—The Roman Catholic proclaimed the national religion of France—Napoleon's private habits—Murder of the Duke d'Enghien—Napoleon is crowned emperor of France.

ONE of the first works to which Napoleon applied himself, on obtaining the consular authority, was, to remodel the laws of France, and reduce their jarring and conflicting elements into system. From the number of provincial courts and local parliaments which had existed under the old *régime*, there was the greatest necessity for some plan by which their clashing and inconsistent decisions should be reconciled. As the law of France stood before Napoleon's reform commenced, it presented a complete chaos, and was the fruitful source of perplexity and injustice to all who sought its remedy. Long before his time the necessity for some great alteration had been apparent,

but all wanted courage to grapple with a task of so Herculean a character.

Napoleon summoned to his aid several of the most eminent lawyers of the period, and, by dint of unwearyed application, succeeded in simplifying and reducing into a small compass the old statutes of France. The result of his labours is well known under the title of "Code Napoleon"—a peaceful monument of his genius, which will outlive his military trophies. He took great pleasure in attending the meetings of the eminent jurists who superintended the preparation of this great work, and astonished them by the knowledge which he displayed of the principles of legislation. He complained in after-life, however, that, notwithstanding all his efforts to simplify legal truths, the lawyers succeeded too often in rendering them complex. "I at first fancied," he said, "that it would be possible to reduce all laws to the clearness and certainty of a mathematical proposition, so that every man who could read might be able to decide for himself; but I became convinced that the idea was absurd. It is not easy to obtain simplicity from practical lawyers. They try to prove to you that it is impossible, and a mere chimera." Napoleon, after the publication

of his code, which was couched in very simple language, was mortified at lawyers writing commentaries upon it, and works which purported to be explanations of it. "Gentlemen," said he to his assistants in the work "we have just cleansed the stable of Augeas: do not let us fill it up again."

The subject of public education occupied also the attention of Napoleon, and a system was devised by him which, though in many respects very imperfect, was yet a great improvement on the state of ignorance into which the revolutionary war had plunged the population of France. By appointing about six thousand scholarships, to be filled up by government, he secured a vast amount of influence in its favour; while he took care to reform the expensive habits which had been permitted in his younger days to prevail at public schools, and substituted a course of healthy discipline. The sons of officers, studying at the military institutions, were taught to shoe and groom their own horses, and to live upon plain food. In academies established for the daughters of members of the Legion of Honour, the young ladies were expressly ordered by Napoleon to make with their own hands the various domestic

articles required for the use of the house. Every species of luxury, and all extravagance in dress, were prohibited, and the greatest pains ordered to be taken to train up the pupils in such a manner as to render them good housewives.

The most remarkable, however, of Napoleon's measures for the re-construction of society in France were, undoubtedly, those which he framed with a view to revive the national religion. At the period of his accession to power, the irreligious principles proclaimed by the National Convention were producing their baneful results. When Dr. Bogue, and some other English gentlemen, visited the Parisian metropolis, in 1802, they searched for more than a whole day amongst its various booksellers before they could procure a copy of the Bible in the French language. Napoleon himself, as the reader must have perceived from his conduct in Egypt, was entirely destitute of all religious principle. "Everything," he on one occasion stated, "proclaims the existence of a God; *that* cannot be doubted. To explain, however, where I come from, what I am, and whither I go, is above my comprehension." His doubts on the

subject of the truth of Christianity appear to have been occasioned partly by his superficial mode of examining the subject, and partly by what has proved a stumbling-block in every age—the inconsistencies of those who made a profession of religion. “How is it possible,” he would exclaim, “that conviction can find its way to my heart, when I hear the absurd language, and witness the iniquitous acts of many of those whose business it is to preach to us? I am surrounded by priests, who incessantly repeat that their kingdom is not of this world, and yet lay their hands upon all they can get.”

Although Napoleon was thus personally indifferent to the claims of religion, he was far too politic a statesman not to recognise the absolute necessity of some religious system, even for the temporal well-being of the community. Anything was better, he was aware, than that France should continue to remain in the infidel condition into which the measures of the revolution had plunged it. The bare announcement, however, of his intention to take any steps in the direction of religion alarmed many of his impious associates. Napoleon, in combating their objections, emphati-

and his successors equally suffered. Acting as they did in a confidential capacity, Napoleon did not allow them to make use of any clerk; and they were liable to be called up at all hours, and sometimes, indeed, required to work for several nights in succession. On one occasion, the secretary, overpowered with fatigue, fell asleep at his post, and on awaking, found his master with his own hand continuing the letter. It was one of the peculiar properties of Napoleon, that he could, by a strong effort of the will, throw himself into slumber almost at any time that he chose to do so. He understood well the value of that process of mental discipline, which confines the mind to the subject immediately before it, instead of allowing it to wander discursively to matters unconnected with it. To this inestimable habit, indeed, must, in a great measure, be ascribed the facility with which he dispatched so much business. "My mind," he would say, "is arranged like a chest of drawers: I open one subject, and when I have done with it, I shut it up again; then I have no confusion of ideas."\*

\* The example of self-control thus exhibited by Napoleon, is a most valuable one, and powerfully illustrates the following observations of an eminent writer: "The foundation of

While having to sustain the load of such a weight of public affairs, Napoleon found time to give to the minutest matters that came under his notice some degree of attention. Every clerk in a public office discharged his duties, however humble, with the feeling that the eye of the emperor was upon him, and that his work might at some time or other undergo his supervision.

Even in domestic matters the same principles were carried into operation, and Napoleon would check his domestic accounts in a manner that was at times very amusing. When one of his palaces was fitted up in a style of great splendour, he surprised his attendants by cutting

all mental discipline consists in the ‘power of mastering the mind.’ We can direct the thoughts to any subject we please, and keep them directed to it with steady and continuous attention. This is a mental exercise, which lies at the foundation of the whole moral condition. By the neglect of such culture, the mind is allowed to run waste amidst the trifles of the passing hours, or is left the sport of waking dreams and vain delusions, entirely unworthy of its high destiny. This due regulation, and stern control of the processes of the mind, is indeed the foundation of all that is high and excellent in the formation of character. He who does not earnestly exercise it, but who allows his mind to wander, as it may be led by its own incidental images, or casual associations, or by the influence of external things to which he is continually exposed, endangers his highest interests, both as an intellectual and a moral being.”—*Abercrombie on the Culture of the Mind.*

off a gilt tassel from a curtain, and slipping it into his pocket. A few days afterwards, he produced another of the same kind, which he had bought in a shop, and contended that he had been overcharged by the party who had had the fitting-up of the palace. The writer of these pages has seen an estimate furnished to Napoleon for some repairs in his household, with annotations in the handwriting of the latter ; and it was curious to observe the brief but emphatic comments made, and the economy with which the charges proposed were limited to one-third of their amount, the remainder having been struck off as uncalled for. Although thus strict in seeing that nothing was wasted, Napoleon was far from being avaricious of money. He distributed immense sums to his various followers, and, with a view to encourage trade, kept all his establishments on the most expensive scale. In his own private tastes, he remained, however, simple and frugal. His master-principle, ambition, swallowed up, as has been well observed, all the minor fry of passions which rule in the generality of mankind.

Amongst the various parties who had watched with interest the progress of Bona-

parte, were the royalist adherents of the Bourbon family, who had been exiled at the revolution. Numbers of these, who had emigrated to England and other countries, were restored to France by the politic clemency of Napoleon, who repealed the harsh laws which had been passed against them by the Convention, and gave back a great portion of their property which government had confiscated. The exiled family which resided in England, opened a correspondence with Napoleon, and sounded him as to his disposition to aid in restoring them to the sovereignty. This overture was, however, declined by Bonaparte, who, in turn, offered the princes of the Bourbons a large estate in Italy, with a considerable pension, if they would relinquish all title to the throne of France. This proposition was, in turn, declined by the parties to whom it was addressed; and some of the royalist party, incensed at Napoleon's opposition to their schemes, determined, although, it is said, without the knowledge of the Bourbons, to remove him by assassination.

One evening, as Napoleon was passing in his carriage through a narrow street of Paris, he was startled from a slumber into which he had

fallen, by a loud discharge of what seemed to be artillery. The noise was found to proceed from a large mass of gunpowder, which had been enclosed in a barrel by the conspirators, and which, by its explosion, had killed eight, and wounded twenty-eight persons. The windows of Napoleon's carriage were shattered, and had it not happened to have been driven by his coachman rather more rapidly than usual, he must have perished. On another occasion, some royalists visited Paris, with a design to form a second conspiracy; and this event led to the adoption of measures, on the part of Napoleon, which have left an indelible stain on his character. Moreau, a general who rivalled him in the affections of the soldiery, was tried as a conspirator, and found guilty on evidence so slender, as to leave it very probable that envy had prompted Napoleon to this mode of getting rid of a rival to his fame and power. No punishment, however, was inflicted on Moreau, the judges themselves having exclaimed to Napoleon, "If we condemn him, who would ever acquit us?"

Some other dark stains rest upon Napoleon's career at this time, in connexion with the death of his old school-fellow, Pichegru, in

prison ; but the most flagrant of his proceedings, and one that has left the foulest blot upon his character, was the murder of the unfortunate duke d'Enghien. This nobleman having, upon purely conjectural and erroneous evidence, been supposed to have taken a part in a royalist conspiracy, was suddenly seized by some of Napoleon's troops, at a time when he was residing in another country, and carried off to France. Within a few hours after his arrival there, he was tried by a secret tribunal, and, without having any opportunity of vindicating his innocence, was barbarously shot. The duke d'Enghien was a member of the exiled Bourbon family, and Napoleon was anxious, by putting him to death, to strike a blow at the royalist cause, and to deter the adherents of that party from future attempts to assassinate him. The action, however, it is needless to say, is not for a moment defensible upon such grounds, and must be regarded as little else than a cold-blooded murder of an innocent man. After the fatal act had been committed, Napoleon, in a fit of remorse, exclaimed, "Here is a crime which leads to nothing." His callous minister of police, Fouché, said, "It was worse than a crime—it was a political blunder." The

whole of Europe was indignant at Napoleon's conduct in the matter; and Mr. Pitt, the prime minister of England, only expressed the general opinion when he said, that Napoleon, by this one action, had done himself more harm than could have been inflicted upon him by years of hostile warfare.

The bawble which allured Napoleon, and induced him to stain his hands with innocent blood, was the crown of France, upon which his desires were eagerly fixed. He had at first been named consul for three years, and his object, therefore, was primarily to get that term of office extended. He took his measures for this purpose with his usual skill and dissimulation. His brother Lucien was made to write an anonymous pamphlet, drawing a comparison between Napoleon, Cæsar, and Cromwell; in which the first was highly eulogised, and pointed out as the man whom France should elect to perpetual and absolute power. This pamphlet having been unfavourably received, Napoleon summoned Fouché, and, with affected indignation, ordered him to arrest the author of it. "That," said Fouché, when Napoleon was gone, "would be rather inconvenient. When I spoke to Lucien on the imprudence of publishing such

a pamphlet, he pulled out the manuscript, and showed me several corrections and additions in Napoleon's own handwriting."

Perceiving that the project was not sufficiently matured, Napoleon postponed his ambitious design. The complaisant tribunate and senate, however, reading his secret wishes, proposed at a later period that he should be appointed consul for ten years. Inwardly disappointed that a longer term of office was not offered to him, Napoleon affected modestly to decline this extension of his power, until it had been confirmed by the people. Well knowing his popularity with the nation, and how wearied the great bulk of it had been by the want, until his time, of a settled form of government, Napoleon ventured to have the question of his consulship for life submitted to the popular vote. The result justified his prognostication ; out of 3,557,885 votes, 3,368,259 were given in his favour, and the public funds rose rapidly as soon as the intelligence was generally known. Within two years more, his flatterers moved that he should receive the title of emperor, and that the crown of France should be hereditary in his family. The nation, still fascinated by the splendour of Napoleon's abilities, con-

firmed this resolution by a larger majority than that which had proclaimed him consul for life.

Napoleon, anxious to give all the *éclat* possible to the occasion, prevailed on the pope to travel from Rome and be present at his coronation—a distinction which had many centuries before been conceded to the celebrated Charlemagne, who had been crowned, however, not at Paris, but at St. Peter's in Rome. All the Roman Catholic countries of Europe beheld with secret envy the honour thus conferred upon Napoleon. Great efforts were made by the latter to receive the pope. The passes over the Alps, across which he had to journey, were carefully secured by parapets, and, on his arrival at the palace prepared for his reception in Paris, he found that his sleeping apartments had, by a delicate piece of attention, been fitted up so as exactly to resemble those which he had been accustomed to use in Rome.

Immense preparations were made to render the coronation a scene of gorgeous magnificence. Napoleon's dress was in the style of the fifteenth century, and had been prepared by one of the most eminent artists of the day. Crowds from all parts of Europe flocked together to witness

the ceremonial, which took place in the church of Nôtre Dame, where, only a few years before, had been celebrated, during the revolution, the impious festival of the goddess of reason. The pope, on entering the church, was received by a choir of five hundred singers, who chanted the misapplied words of the Gospel, "Tu es Petrus," (Thou art Peter.) When the time came for the crown to be placed on the brow of Napoleon, the pope lifted it from the cushion for that purpose, but the former seizing it, placed it with his own hands upon his head. Napoleon then placed the crown upon the brows of Josephine, whose eyes were filled with tears. All that pomp and splendour could lend to the scene was there, but in spite of everything a gloom hung over the spectators. The heralds, however, proclaimed in a loud voice, Napoleon, Emperor of the French! and the roar of artillery, and the shouts of the military without, rent the air. Napoleon had his wish gratified ; the object for which he had so long panted was now within his grasp ; but, like every other earthly enjoyment when unblessed by God, it was decreed that it should prove to him only a source of vanity and vexation of spirit. In the very hour of his triumph, remorse must have reared

"its snaky crest," and conscience have whispered dissatisfaction with the scene.

In contemplating this point of Napoleon's life, the Christian reader is, by a natural and easy transition, led to look forward to that period when, if faithful to his calling, he shall receive from the hands of his Divine Master a crown of glory which fadeth not away. Who can describe the unspeakable felicity of that hour, when the Saviour's matchless condescension shall distribute, not of debt, but of grace, those rewards, which human language labours in describing? What eye hath seen, what ear hath heard, what heart hath conceived, the things which God hath laid up for those that love him? "In thy presence is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore," Psa. xvi. 11. Oh, reader, these joys are freely offered for thy acceptance! A Saviour's love still invites thee to take them as his rich and unmerited gift. Now, then, while it is the accepted hour, fall down at that Saviour's feet. Cast thyself wholly on his compassionate mercy as a lost and ruined sinner ; implore him to create within thee a new heart and a right spirit, and to give thee grace utterly to renounce the love of sin. Thus coming, thou shalt in nowise be

cast out. In due season, if thou faint not, shall the prayer of faith be answered. Washed in the precious blood of Christ, and sanctified by his Holy Spirit, thou shalt be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, and wear, at last, if faithful to the end, a celestial crown, compared with which Napoleon's diadem was a glittering bawble, and a worthless toy!

## CHAPTER VII.

Re-commencement of hostilities between France and England—Harsh measures of Napoleon—Meditated invasion of England—A continental war breaks out—Capitulation of Ulm—Battle of Austerlitz—Rupture with Prussia, and battle of Jena—Rupture with Russia, and battle of Eylau—Treaty of Tilsit—Napoleon's oppressive exactions—His continental system—Horrors of war.

PREVIOUS to the coronation of Napoleon as emperor of France, the flames of war had again burst forth between that country and England. Our space will not permit us to enter into the discussions which have been raised by various writers as to the cause which led to the rupture of the peace of Amiens. It may only briefly be observed, that Napoleon, in his treatment of some of the minor continental states, showed clearly that his ambitious character remained unaltered, and that he sought peace only as a means of recruiting his naval and military forces for farther aggressions. The British ministry, therefore, supported by a

large majority in parliament, and by the public opinion of the country, decided that, however deplorable an appeal to arms was, it was wiser to crush the hydra power of Napoleon in its infancy, than to allow it to attain a maturity that would have endangered the liberties of the world. "It is of little consequence," says an eminent historical writer, speaking of the conduct of England at this juncture, (and his words will explain also the attacks at various times made on Napoleon by the great continental powers,) "it is of little consequence what was the ostensible cause of the rupture; the real ground of it was, a well-founded distrust of the pacific intentions of the first consul, or his ability to remain at peace, had he been so inclined; a conviction which subsequent events have abundantly justified, that he was preparing, at some future period, a desperate attack upon our independence; and that all which he now acquired (during peace) would, ere long, be turned, with consummate talent, against us." Posterity will affirm this decision.

Napoleon commenced hostile proceedings by a step which greatly embittered the sufferings of private individuals without at all accelerating the result of the contest. He issued an order

for the arrest of all the natives of England, between eighteen and sixty years of age, who were then travelling in the French dominions —a barbarous measure, which deprived about ten thousand individuals of their liberties for several years. Junot, afterwards duke of Abrantes, received, in the middle of the night, orders to carry this detestable edict into force. He found Napoleon, with his eyes flashing fire, and his whole figure trembling with agitation. “See,” he exclaimed, “that not one of them escapes.” Junot ineffectually implored his master to pause before taking a step of so dis- honourable a character, but Napoleon frowned him down. “Again!” said Bonaparte; “Are we to have the scene of the other day over again? Even Duroc, with his quiet air, will be coming here to preach to me. I will show you that I can make myself obeyed.” The measure was accordingly, in violation of all the usages of war, carried into effect.

The next point to which Bonaparte directed his attention was a scheme for the invasion of England, to accomplish which he made gigantic efforts. The whole of France responded eagerly to Napoleon’s call, and there was hardly a city or district of any consequence which did not

immediately vote funds for the construction of vessels, in which to transport the invading army to the shores of England. In the harbour of Boulogne these vessels were gradually accumulated in immense numbers, notwithstanding all the efforts of the British fleet to intercept them. An army of one hundred and forty-six thousand men was also collected ; and, flushed with former victories, it waited, with impatience, the moment when the signal for embarkation should be given. As a means of testing the alacrity of his troops, Napoleon, on one occasion, made the signal which they so much desired. At the sound of the cannon, the troops embarked with great precision and celerity. Shouts of joy rent the air, which were changed into murmurs of dissatisfaction when they learned that the whole had been a false alarm, made for the purpose of ascertaining the promptitude with which they could execute their manœuvres.

Napoleon knew too well, however, the immense dangers which awaited this assault on England, to attempt it precipitately. Throughout our country, the most active preparations for defence had been made by its inhabitants. Volunteer regiments had been raised in every

district ; beacons were placed on the headlands round the coasts, to give intimation of the approach of the enemy ; and persons of every rank had some office assigned to them, in the event of Napoleon effecting a hostile landing. The nation, too, was called by its rulers to solemn humiliation, and days of fasting were appointed, in which God might be entreated for the land. The supplications offered did not arise in vain to the throne of the Most High. Napoleon's skilful and crafty combinations for decoying from the shores of Great Britain the fleet by which they were guarded, were defeated by the genius of Nelson ; and, perceiving that the attempt of invasion was hopeless, he abandoned himself to a transport of indignation against those naval officers through whose incapacity he conceived the scheme to have miscarried.

May England never forget her obligations to that protecting and Almighty hand which preserved her shores from the foot of the spoiler ! May she seek that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and avoid that sin which is the reproach of a people ! In the hour of public danger, too, may she, taught by the past, learn the wisdom of humbling herself

under that Almighty hand, which has so often protected her in the times of peril, and which is still able to save to the uttermost all who truly seek and depend on its aid !

Bonaparte soon found himself involved in hostilities with other powers besides England ; for it is one of the properties of war, that it propagates itself, and, from being local, becomes general. The death of the duke d'Enghien, under the circumstances mentioned in a previous chapter, had given deep offence to the king of Sweden and the emperor of Russia ; and this feeling of dislike having been aggravated by an angry correspondence that ensued, and by some aggressive measures of Napoleon upon Hanover and Naples, war was formally declared. Austria had been at first afraid to join this coalition against the French emperor ; but the latter having been crowned as king of Italy, and having continued his aggressions upon that country, by annexing to his dominions the republic of Genoa, she could no longer contain her indignation, and willingly joined the confederation against Napoleon. Upon hearing of this alarming movement against him, Bonaparte acted with even more than his usual energy. He broke up his camp

at Boulogne, and, by means of forced marches, appeared in the Austrian emperor's dominions before the latter and his allies had fully matured their military arrangements.

The Austrian government had entrusted the command of a large portion of its troops to a general of the name of Mack, a man of very slender capacity, who, unable to contend against the skilful tactics of Napoleon, was obliged, to the utter amazement and consternation of the latter's opponents, to surrender himself and an army of thirty thousand men as prisoners of war at the town of Ulm. Napoleon, attended by his generals, stood upon a rocky eminence, and watched, with swelling pride, the long ranks of Austrian troops as they defiled before him previous to surrendering their arms. The vanquished generals he soothed by well-turned compliments; and such was the wonder inspired by Napoleon's name, that even the Austrian soldiers, defeated as they were, paused as they passed to gaze with admiration upon the man who seemed to have no limits imposed to his success. Napoleon did not give his opponents time to recover from the alarm occasioned by the capitulation of Ulm, but marched upon Vienna, the capital of Austria, which was

compelled, without resistance, to surrender to him ; the emperor's forces having evacuated it in order to effect a junction with those of the emperor of Russia.

This junction having been completed, preparations were made for a general engagement with the French army, which at last took place at Austerlitz, on the anniversary of Napoleon's coronation. His military tactics upon this occasion have been much praised by professional men, and the battle appears to have been one of the most skilful which he ever fought. By a series of manœuvres he decoyed the enemy into a false position, and then, pouring down his troops, entirely defeated them. From the details of the engagement we willingly turn away, furnishing, as they do, no point on which a Christian eye can dwell with satisfaction. Amidst the scenes of carnage which took place, one will be viewed by the humane reader with peculiar horror. Hemmed in by the French troops, and exposed on all sides to a devastating fire of artillery, some thousands of Russian soldiers endeavoured to effect their escape by crossing a frozen lake. A shower of balls and shells was immediately directed towards the ice, which, breaking in all

directions, the unhappy multitude sank in the cold waters, and miserably perished.

After the battle, the humiliated emperor of Austria met Napoleon, to arrange the conditions of peace, which were concluded on terms highly unfavourable to the former. The spot where the meeting took place was a humble cottage, in the neighbourhood of the field of battle. "See," said Napoleon to his vanquished opponents, "see the sort of palaces which you have obliged me to inhabit."—"You have made such a good use of your dwellings," replied the emperor, "that you have no reason, I am sure, to complain of them."

Prussia had for a long time stood neutral in the contest between France and the allied powers, but she had, at last, determined to declare war against Napoleon. Her ambassador arrived at the head-quarters of the latter on the morning of the battle of Austerlitz, but prudently determined to forbear delivering the hostile message which he carried until the conclusion of the engagement. Finding that the action had terminated so signally in favour of the French, he suppressed altogether the warlike manifesto with which he had been entrusted, and waited on Napoleon to congratulate him upon his

victory. Napoleon whispered into the ambassador's ear, "Here is a message of which circumstances have altered the address." As it did not suit Napoleon's views, however, to quarrel with Prussia at this moment, he concealed his resentment, but inwardly determined that that country should, ere long, feel the weight of his revenge. The intelligence of the battle of Austerlitz fell with deadly weight on the mind of Mr. Pitt, the British minister, who had devised the coalition which that engagement so effectually broke through. His spirits never recovered the shock, and he sank under a pining illness, oppressed with the gloomiest fears for the future welfare of England.

Within less than a year from the battle of Austerlitz, the opportunity of punishing Prussia for her vacillating conduct, for which Napoleon had anxiously waited, at last arrived. He had omitted no opportunity of heaping insults upon that country, while his continual absorption into the French empire of states bordering close upon it, indicated but too clearly an intention, at some future day, on Napoleon's part, of reducing Prussia into a province of his own dominions. Accustomed as the Prussians had been to conquest under the reign of their former

monarch, Frederick the Great, they could ill brook the contumelious treatment which was heaped upon them. Discovering, too, that Napoleon had proposed, in the event of a peace, restoring to England her Hanoverian dominions, which Prussia had dishonestly taken as a bribe for her neutrality during the former campaign, the cabinet of the latter country, in a moment of imprudence, declared war against France, and rushed into the contest, without taking care to fortify itself by suitable alliances, or to make those preparations which ordinary caution would have suggested.

Prussia had almost single-handed to bear the brunt of this contest, the only continental power which came to her assistance being Russia. Before the latter, however, could lend her promised aid, Napoleon had, with the force of a torrent, invaded the Prussian dominions, and, in the battle of Jena,\* broken to pieces her army, as he would have dashed into fragments a potter's vessel. In three weeks from its commencement, the campaign had been ended. Napoleon entered Berlin in triumph, surrounded by a brilliant staff, and all Europe stood aghast at beholding almost the last

\* Oct. 14, 1806.

barrier to Napoleon's ambition on the continent swept away. No weapon raised against him seemed to prosper ; the friends of liberty hung down their hands in despair, while the admirers of Napoleon hesitated not to assert that he was more than a mere mortal. Even at this time, however, some acute observers foretold his fall. "We are witnessing," said an English clergyman, when preaching on one of the days of national humiliation appointed by government, "we are witnessing the most tremendous spectacle which the theatre of nature has ever exhibited of the pride or ambition of man. For years our attention has been fixed on that great and guilty country, which has been fertile in nothing but revolution. From amid the clouds that cover it, we have at last seen a dark and shapeless form arise, which, like the vision that appalled the king of Babylon, hath its legs of iron, and its arms of brass. Amid all the terrors of its brightness, it has no foundations in the moral stability of justice. It may remain for a time, or the times that are appointed for it ; but the awful hour is on the wing when the universe will resound with its fall."

Although Napoleon, as we have already seen, had overthrown the military power of

Prussia, yet there still remained opposed to him the army which the emperor of Russia had raised, in his capacity of ally to the former country. With his usual impetuosity, Napoleon hurried forward new levies for this campaign, although, by granting reasonable terms of accommodation, it might altogether have been avoided. His success, however, was not so unequivocally marked as in his former wars. In one of the principal engagements, which took place at Eylau,\* both parties claimed the victory; and in a subsequent contest at Friedland, although the Russians were compelled to retreat, yet they exhibited an energy of resistance, to which Napoleon, in his former campaigns, had been a comparative stranger. Few battles fought by the French emperor exhibited more of the horrors of war than that of Eylau. It took place in the depth of winter, and after the engagement was concluded, the ground was strewed with the bodies of fifty thousand wounded men. Stretched upon the snow, these unhappy objects screamed aloud for water, while several thousand horses, which had been mutilated in the battle, made the plain ring with their cries of agony. It

is in the contemplation of scenes like these that we see the full horrors of war, and rightly appreciate the inestimable blessings of peace. Deep and overflowing ought, indeed, to be our thankfulness to God, for having so long preserved to our country that precious gift, and earnest should be our prayers and exertions for the suppression of all that would awaken those unholy feelings of national animosity in which so many groundless wars have taken their origin.

Napoleon and Alexander, the emperor of Russia, being both equally desirous of a temporary repose from arms, it was agreed that they should meet and arrange the conditions of peace. A raft was accordingly constructed on the river Tilsit, fitted up with suitable apartments. Amidst the roar of artillery from their respective armies, which were drawn up on each side of the river in friendly array, the two monarchs stepped into boats, and were rowed towards the raft. Napoleon arrived first, and opened the door to Alexander, and in a few minutes the two men, who, by their quarrels, had caused the effusion of so much precious blood, were engaged in conversation with all the familiarity of ancient

friendship. A hollow treaty was made between the parties, destined ere long to be shamefully violated. There were secret articles contained in it which showed that Alexander, in point of ambition, was equally culpable with Napoleon. The former emperor stipulated that, if he were allowed unmolested to complete certain aggressive designs, which he meditated on Friedland and Turkey, he would, in turn, offer no opposition to some ambitious projects which Napoleon entertained for the invasion of Portugal and Spain. A severe retribution awaited Alexander for this conduct, as will be found in our narrative of the attack upon his empire, made at a subsequent period by Napoleon. The injury which he meditated for others, was made, by a just dispensation of Providence, to recoil on his own head.

The treaty of Tilsit is considered by the generality of writers to have marked the meridian of Napoleon's glory. From this period his sun began to set; at first slowly and imperceptibly, until, at last, it sank in total darkness. No consciousness of such a result, however, attended Napoleon. As he had grown in success, he had grown also in pride, and he manifested accordingly a haughtiness and

insolence of power, which stirred up amongst those whom he had vanquished feelings of deep animosity towards him. The ancient landmarks of Europe were broken up by him, and provinces taken from one country and transferred to another, without any regard to the wishes of their inhabitants. Heavy exactions, too, both of men and money, were demanded from the states which he had subdued, and were rigorously enforced. Prussia had, after the battle of Jena, a sum of 6,800,000*l.* to pay in this manner; and Stettin, a town of 32,000 inhabitants, had a contribution of 800,000*l.* to raise. England having still continued her hostilities, Napoleon, unable to cope with her maritime force, adopted, by way of retaliation, his celebrated continental system, by means of which he hoped to inflict an irreparable blow on British commerce.

In accordance with this system, all English manufactures, or colonial produce, were prohibited from being imported into France, or into any of the countries in alliance with Napoleon. An extensive train of custom-house officers was formed in order to carry out this plan; but, in spite of all the vigilance of Napoleon, it was repeatedly broken through;

smuggling, with all its demoralizing consequences, prevailed to an almost incredible extent ; and, in several instances, Napoleon's ministers were obliged to connive at the infraction of the law, and to order from England articles of dress required for the army. Bourienné, when employed at Hamburg, thus imported on one occasion, for the use of Napoleon's troops, fifty thousand great coats, sixteen thousand vests, and leather for two-hundred thousand pair of shoes. The annoyance and private suffering which the system created in France, were excessive. Napoleon, it is true, gave immense rewards for the encouragement of domestic manufactures, in lieu of those which he excluded from abroad ; but the substitutes which he thus succeeded in raising, answered the purposes intended very imperfectly.

Amongst these attempts may be mentioned one which still survives in France—the cultivation of sugar from beet-root. Napoleon was very sanguine as to the success of this scheme, and used to boast, that the forest of Fontainebleau, which he had planted with red beet, would supply all Europe with sugar. So strict was he in his system of protecting this domestic

produce, that, on one occasion, a poor father of a family narrowly escaped death for having introduced into his house a small loaf of colonial sugar. Bourienne relates, however, that it was no uncommon thing for smugglers to fill sand-pits with brown sugar, and cart it into the city, disguised by a thin covering of gravel. The amount of inconvenience caused by the system was, indeed, excessive ; and to use the language of a French writer, "it is difficult at this day to conceive how Europe could for a single hour endure that fiscal tyranny, which exacted the most exorbitant prices for articles that, through the habits of three centuries, had become indispensable necessities of life alike to the rich and poor."

A still more appalling result of Napoleon's warlike policy, was the destruction of human life caused by it. On this point our limits will not permit us to expatiate ; but the reader may form some idea of the amount of individual suffering caused during a single campaign, when he is informed, that as a preparation for Napoleon's operations against the Russians, adverted to in this chapter, thirty thousand tents were cut up into bandages for the wounded. "From the 1st October, 1806, to the 30th June, 1807,"

says a writer, who, with great elegance of language, combines accuracy of detail, "during a period of nine months, a million of human beings were consigned to military hospitals, of whom at least a hundred thousand perished, independent of those slain in battle, who were nearly as many more. The mind finds it impossible to apprehend such enormous calamities ; like the calculated distances of the fixed stars, they elude the grasp of the most vivid imagination."

In perusing this awful record, the reader will be ready to exclaim with the Christian poet :—

“ Oh for a lodge in some vast wilderness,  
Some boundless contiguity of shade,  
Where rumour of oppression and deceit,  
Of unsuccessful or successful war,  
Might never reach me more ! My ear is pain’d,  
My soul is sick with every day’s report  
Of wrong and outrage, with which earth is fill’d.  
There is no flesh in man’s obdurate heart ;  
It does not feel for man ; the natural bond  
Of brotherhood is sever’d, as the flax  
That falls asunder at the touch of fire.”

## CHAPTER VIII.

Napoleon's ambition increases—Invasion of Portugal and Spain—War breaks out again with Austria—Divorce of Josephine, and second marriage of Napoleon—Birth of his son—Invasion of Russia—Sufferings of the French, and total defeat of Napoleon's army.

It is the property of human passions, when unrestrained by Divine grace, that each concession made to them awakens a craving for farther indulgence. Napoleon illustrated the truth of this remark. Although he now possessed an unexampled extent of power, and although his territories had attained a vastness which required repose for their consolidation, he was restless and dissatisfied, and pined for new conquests. About this period, he had invested some of his brothers with the regal authority. Joseph had been made king of Naples; Louis, of Holland; and Jerome, of Westphalia. His other brother, Lucien, who by his unscrupulous policy had been of such

service to Napoleon on his return from Egypt, was not rewarded with a crown ; and disgusted with this neglect, he fled first to Italy, and then to England, where he resided, devoting himself to literary pursuits. Napoleon created also his most eminent generals dukes of his empire, and dignified a select number of them with the title of marshals. He gave proofs, however, of his desire to return to the despotic principles of the ancient monarchy of France, by building several state prisons, to which persons were committed for political offences, often on the slightest grounds.

Meanwhile, from all France rang the strains of courtly adulation to Napoleon ; his power was proclaimed irresistible, and he was declared to be a hero raised up expressly by Heaven. Some of the principal Jews in Paris, with gross and impious flattery, interwove his name with that of the Divinity upon their signet, as if he had been their expected Messiah. Nor were some of the Roman Catholic clergy behind in gross flattery. A bishop of that church, from his pulpit, delivered the following disgraceful address : “ God in his sacred mercy made choice of Napoleon to be his representative upon earth. The queen of

heaven, the virgin Mary, has deigned, by the most munificent gifts, to mark the anniversary of that day which witnessed her own reception into the celestial mansions. Holy virgin ! it is not without an especial dispensation of thy love for the French people, and of thine all-powerful influence with thy son, that to the chief of these thy solemn days should belong the birth of the great Napoleon. It was decreed that from thy sepulchre should spring a hero."

At the very time, however, when these vile flatteries were being poured forth, Napoleon had commenced the first of a series of measures which eventually led to his downfall. He invaded Portugal, and easily gained possession of it, the reigning family having fled precipitately, and embarked for their dominions in the new world, upon receiving intelligence of Napoleon's approach. A French party having been formed in Spain, intrigues were set on foot, by which the weak-minded monarch of that country was persuaded to attempt a similar flight. He had made, accordingly, preparations for embarking for America from Seville, when his design was suspected by the populace, and insurrectionary movements took

place, which had the effect of making him abandon the scheme, and abdicate in favour of his son Ferdinand. The latter having incautiously quitted the Spanish frontier, with a view to conciliate Napoleon, was made prisoner by the latter, and continued for several years a captive, beguiling his imprisonment by working a petticoat for an image of the virgin Mary.

The fall of the royal house of Spain was a just retribution for the iniquities by which it had been stained. "Could crime," says Mr. Lockhart, "justify crime; could the fiendish lusts and hatreds of a degenerate race offer any excuse for the deliberate guilt of a masculine genius; the conduct of this abject court might have apologised for the policy, which it perhaps tempted the pampered ambition of Napoleon to commence." Napoleon's army having soon entered Spain, Joseph, his brother, was transferred from the throne of Naples to that of the former country. The whole population, however, indignant at Napoleon's ambition, rose *en masse* against their new monarch; and England, availing itself of the patriotic outburst, supplied the insurgents liberally with men and arms.

It was about this time that the duke of

Wellington, then sir Arthur Wellesley, began that series of military operations which ended in the expulsion of the French troops from Spain, and paved the way for Napoleon's ultimate downfall.\* While engaged in his Spanish conflict, Napoleon received intelligence that Austria, recruited by repose, was preparing to commence hostilities against him. Being at the time absent from Paris, he returned to that city on horseback with extraordinary speed, having travelled seventy-five miles in five hours and a half. Finding the information which he had received respecting the movements of Austria to be correct, he prepared for the campaign with his usual promptitude and vigour, which were crowned with success. The Austrian forces were defeated in several engagements, and Vienna itself bombarded and captured. During the siege of the latter city, the sufferings of the inhabitants were intense, as thousands of bombs were poured into their streets, spreading devastation and carnage around. Napoleon having learned that an archduchess of Austria was confined by illness in the imperial palace, which had been deserted by the other members of the royal

family, ordered the firing upon that building to be discontinued. The princess who received this mark of attention was Maria Louisa, his future wife ! It was now expected that the emperor of Austria would feel the full weight of Napoleon's vengeance ; but, to the general surprise, peace was concluded on terms of great moderation.

The secret cause of this clemency, however, ere long became apparent. Napoleon, on his return to Paris, was observed to manifest a considerable degree of coldness towards the empress Josephine. No children had crowned their union ; and for many years, Josephine had watched her husband's accession to supreme power with emotions of grief and alarm, conscious that at each step which he made on the ladder of ambition, he would feel more painfully his want of an heir, to whom the succession of his vast empire could be transmitted. Josephine's fears were now to be realized. One evening, after dinner, Napoleon dismissed the attendants, and intimated that it was his wish that he should be left alone with the empress. What follows, will be best described in Josephine's own touching words. "I saw," says she, "that my hour was come.

His whole frame trembled ; and I felt a shuddering horror come over mine. He approached, took my hand, placed it on his heart, gazed upon me for a moment without speaking, then at last let fall these dreadful words : 'Josephine, my excellent Josephine, thou knowest if I have loved thee. To thee—to thee alone, do I owe the only moments of happiness which I have enjoyed in this world ; but my destiny overmasters my will : my dearest affections must be silent before the interests of France !' 'Say no more,' I replied ; 'I was prepared for this. I understand you ; but the blow is not the less mortal.'"

Josephine was carried out of the apartment, fainting. In a few days she recovered strength sufficient to attend a council, at which the divorce was publicly announced, and the most fulsome flatteries addressed to her and Napoleon, on their disinterestedness in making such sacrifices for the good of France. A large annual allowance was bestowed upon Josephine, and she lingered in retirement for a few years. She survived long enough, however, to witness Napoleon's downfall, an event which, instead of inspiring her with satisfaction, brought on a disease which terminated fatally. She died,

it may be said with truth, of grief at the misfortunes of him who had used her so ungratefully and unjustly. There are few passages in the life of Napoleon which reflect so deep a stain upon his character, as his divorce of Josephine. Her uniform attachment to him had deserved a very different requital at his hands. If it be pleaded, that his want of an heir for his ill-acquired power left him no alternative but to make this attempt, the result sufficiently shows the folly of attempting with impunity to violate the commandments of God. The dynasty for which Napoleon thus sinned was, in a few short years, swept away, leaving behind it nothing but the mass of guilt incurred in its construction.

A successor was soon found for Josephine in Maria Louisa, the daughter of the emperor of Austria. Napoleon has informed us, that she was kind and amiable, and fulfilled in all respects, as he wished, the duties devolving upon the important situation to which he had called her. His wishes, with respect to an heir, were also at length gratified. On the 19th of March, 1811, the empress was delivered of a son; and the roar of artillery soon communicated to Paris the intelligence so long

anxiously expected. Circumstances of peculiar difficulty attended the birth of the young prince. The empress's labour was a perilous one, and for a long time her life was in jeopardy. The surgeon in attendance became alarmed, and seemed to lose his presence of mind. "Forget," said the emperor, "that she is an empress ; treat her as you would the wife of a citizen." The child, when born, exhibited at first no symptoms of life, but at last emitted a feeble cry. Napoleon, with joy, snatched it up in his arms, and exhibited it to his court, who hailed the infant as the king of Rome, the title which it had been previously agreed should be bestowed upon him. The history of the prince thus born may be given in a few words. After the fall of Napoleon, he was educated under the care of the Austrian court ; Francis, the emperor, having manifested a great partiality for him. In disposition he showed much\* sweetness, joined with great nobleness of character. In 1832, however, just as he was attaining manhood, he was attacked by a consumptive disorder, which proved fatal to him.

A short time previous to the events we have just been describing, Napoleon quarrelled with

the pope, and after depriving him of his temporal dominions, confined him at Fontainebleau, near Paris, treating him, however, with courtesy and attention. His power now seemed at its height, and had reached an eminence apparently incapable of overthrow by human means. The period of his fall, was, however, close at hand. The object which he had been appointed to perform—the scourging of the nations of Europe—was near its accomplishment ; and Providence, by a signal lesson, was about to show to the world how easily, by the simplest means, the greatest purpose can be attained, when such is the will of the Almighty.

A quarrel had arisen between Napoleon and his former ally, Alexander, the emperor of Russia, in consequence of the latter having declined to carry out, with the ruinous strictness which Napoleon required, the terms of the latter's oppressive continental system. Preparations for war were accordingly made on the most gigantic scale by the emperor, levies for the purpose having been raised in all the states with which he was in alliance.\* “The emperor,” says a writer, “held at his disposal almost the entire military force of Europe. It

was astonishing to behold the union of nations, languages, and manners, ready to fight for a single individual against a power which had done them no injury. This vast expedition, the greatest conceived by the genius of man since the age of Alexander's conquest of India, fixed all regards, absorbed all ideas, and transcended the calculations of reason." Napoleon was in vain implored by his generals to pause before he proceeded in his attempts to a country like Russia, presenting so many obstacles to an invading army. He was deaf to all these appeals. With a species of infatuation, he ordered to be taken with him the splendid articles which had served to decorate his coronation, in order that he might enter in triumph the capital of Russia. The details of this expedition possesses interest enough to fill several volumes, and illustrate most powerfully the dreadful nature of war. It is sufficient for our purpose here to state, however, that Napoleon found the vast army which he had accumulated, and which amounted to upwards of six hundred thousand men, far too unwieldy for useful purposes. It daily melted away from the effects of disease and want of discipline, until its numbers were very alarmingly

thinned. The Russians were defeated in several engagements, but they retreated in good order, adopting the awful expedient of destroying every town and habitation which lay in their march, so as to render the country little better than a howling wilderness, from which the French army could draw no supplies.

The same policy was pursued by the Russians with respect to Moscow, at that time the capital of their country. The whole population of this large city marched out and abandoned it, on learning the approach of Napoleon's victorious army. The surprise of the emperor and his troops was unbounded, on finding the streets of his enemy's capital deserted ; but towards night-fall the mystery was explained. On every side there suddenly arose fierce and devouring flames from conflagrations kindled by secret incendiaries, who had been left behind for that purpose by the Russian government. In spite of all Napoleon's efforts, the fire continued to increase, until nearly the whole city had been wrapped in it. He himself with difficulty escaped destruction, and had to thread his way through a narrow street, over scorching cinders and stones, and exposed to a shower of molten iron and copper, which fell from the tops of the

houses. Property to the amount of eighty-three millions sterling is computed to have perished in this awful conflagration.

The scene which presented itself next day was of an extraordinary character. On the one side were the smoking ruins of the city, and on the other lay the French army surrounded with spoil which they had saved from the general wreck. Splendid articles of furniture were scattered on the ground, and served as fuel for the soldiers' camp-fires. Heaps of gold and silver plate, with piles of the richest merchandise, were strewed in profusion around, but the indispensable article of provisions was wanting. The soldiery might be seen eating a coarse mess of horseflesh from dishes fit for a nobleman's table, and were willing to part with the costliest portion of their plunder for some loaves of bread offered for sale by the neighbouring peasantry. Napoleon perceived the full danger of his position, and after sending several overtures of peace to the emperor Alexander, which met with no reply, he reluctantly turned his steps in the direction of France, and prepared to retreat, conscious as he was that by so doing he destroyed the reputation for invincibility which

had hitherto been one great ingredient of his success.

The narrative of this memorable retreat of the French army has been written by some of the officers who were eye-witnesses of it, in a manner that must powerfully touch the feelings of all who peruse their works. Never, perhaps, amidst all the horrors entailed by war upon mankind, did sufferings of a more acute character fall to the lot of any army. Winter having set in, the path of the troops lay through regions of ice and snow. Without fire, and almost without food, they pursued their melancholy journey, losing at the close of each day's march thousands of their comrades from the rigour of the climate. The Russians, too, encouraged by the retreat of their opponents, pursued them with unrelenting severity; and often, with a dreadful refinement of cruelty, after wounding their prisoners, stripped them and left them to perish on the snow. Napoleon's reflections during this retreat must have been sufficiently bitter, but he in a great measure concealed his emotion from external observers. In the course of the journey he received intelligence from Paris which led him to hurry homewards, leaving the

wreck of the army to the charge of some of his generals.

The abbé de Pradt, one of his diplomatic agents at Warsaw, has described in a graphic manner the sudden appearance of Napoleon on his passage through that city, and has detailed the fragments of a conversation which took place between them. "It was half-past one," he writes, "when I reached his hotel. In the yard was a small carriage, mounted on a sledge, together with two open sledges half-demolished. This was all that remained of so much grandeur and magnificence! The door of a low narrow room opened mysteriously, and I was introduced and left alone with the emperor, who, enveloped in a superb green pelisse, covered with gold trimmings, and lined with fur, was walking rapidly up and down the chamber. A Polish maid-servant was blowing a fire made of green wood, which resisted all her efforts to kindle, but filled the room with smoke and steam." Napoleon, in the conversation which followed, talked lightly of the terrible disaster which had befallen him, and spoke of it as being certain to be repaired as soon as he could reach Paris. For that city he set out, after taking a slight repose, and succeeded in reaching it safely. It

was indeed well for him that he used such alacrity, as the Prussian authorities were meditating the policy of effecting his capture. Maria Louisa had retired to rest, when the attendants in her chamber were startled by the sudden apparition of a figure wrapped in furs. They raised a cry of terror, which was speedily changed into one of joy, when they recognised the well-known voice of the emperor.

Meanwhile, the army left behind in the snows of Russia was daily undergoing fresh losses. Their unequal combats with the Russians continually weakened them, and the rigour of the climate was more fatal even than the sword of the enemy. Out of an army of 600,000 men, <sup>55</sup> little more than 50,000 escaped, and of that number <sup>20</sup> 20,000 afterwards died in the hospital. The remainder either perished miserably in battle, or expired amidst the snows of Russia, while about 100,000 had been fortunate enough to fall into the hands of the enemy as prisoners.

In reviewing this passage in Napoleon's career, the pious reader will recognise another illustration of the horrors of war, of the destructive properties of sin, and of the miseries which flow from its indulgence. He will discover, too, a proof of the depravity of the human heart, and

of the extent to which it has deviated from that law of holy love originally impressed upon it by its Creator. Oh! reader, hast thou felt the evil of this deadly principle of sin, or dost thou still remain its willing slave, heedless of the danger to which it exposes thee? If such be the case, awake, we beseech thee, ere it be too late, from thy false security. Turn to the cross of Christ, and beholding there displayed the unspeakable malignity of sin, and God's determination to punish the finally impenitent sinner, implore, in fervent prayer, the Holy Spirit to enlighten thy darkened mind, and to bestow on thee that living faith which is the gift of God. Renounce the iron bondage of Satan, and take up the Saviour's light and easy yoke. Thus doing, shalt thou find rest for thy soul, and through eternity thou shalt bless that Divine grace which first led thee to make such a happy exchange, and so wise a choice.

## CHAPTER IX.

Mallett's conspiracy—The nations of Europe rise up against Napoleon, and overthrow his power—France is invaded, and Napoleon compelled to abdicate—He retires to Elba, but again returns to France—Final overthrow of his power—He is banished to St. Helena, where he dies—Concluding remarks.

UPON Napoleon's arrival in Paris, he had found fresh matter of disquietude awaiting him. An officer of the name of Mallett having escaped from prison, in which he had been confined, had artfully spread a report of the emperor's death in the Russian campaign, and, attended by a few bold companions, had waited at the public offices with a forged decree of the senate, authorizing the formation of a new government. So daring was the plot, and so adroitly did the conspirators play their parts, that they actually succeeded in imprisoning some of Napoleon's ministers, and might have even carried their designs further, had not Mallett been accidentally recognised by a policeman as an escaped prisoner, and arrested.

The plot was crushed before Napoleon's return, but the intelligence of it deeply affected him, as he saw in it a proof of the uncertain basis on which his power rested, when a scheme for its overthrow had so nearly proved successful. Other perplexities also crowded around him : the intelligence of the disastrous result of the Russian campaign spread quickly through Europe, and dispelling as it did the reputation of invincibility which had hitherto attended Napoleon, caused the various nations which groaned beneath his yoke to hope that the hour of their deliverance had arrived. The Russian emperor issued a proclamation, calling on other countries to co-operate with his arms. “Ages,” he said, “may elapse before an opportunity equally favourable again presents itself ; and it would be an abuse of the goodness of Providence not to take advantage of this crisis to reconstruct the equilibrium of Europe, and thereby ensure public tranquillity and individual happiness.” Prussia, thus appealed to, coalesced with Russia ; and even Austria, allied as she was to Napoleon, joined the confederacy. England, too, poured in supplies of money, and maintained with fresh vigour the contest which had been begun in Spain.

Napoleon saw the full extent of his danger, and wrung from his unhappy subjects fresh levies of troops. It was not without murmuring, however, that the latter made this sacrifice. The havoc caused by the imperial wars had begun to be most sensibly felt throughout all France. For six months after the Russian retreat, the generality of the inhabitants of Paris were clothed in mourning, few families having escaped without the loss of some relative. The young men of France had been swept almost entirely away, leaving for the new levies bands of youths, more fitted for school than for the dreadful pursuits of war. Napoleon, with these hastily collected and inexperienced troops, advanced rapidly to meet the enemy ; but, although for a passing engagement or two he met with partial success, it was soon but too evident that victory had at length deserted him. In vain did he try new combinations of military skill, and exhaust the arts of flattery upon his troops ; step by step was he defeated, and driven back through Germany, until at length France itself became the battle-ground for the contending powers. The desolating wave which had so often rolled forth from that country, carrying misery into other lands, was

now, by a just retribution, permitted to return upon France herself.

Napoleon made the most frantic exertions to awaken the French people, and induce them to rise against the invaders, but he found that his influence over the community which had been idolatrously attached to him was gone. An apathy had seized upon the great bulk of the inhabitants, who, wearied out with his military exactions, secretly longed for his overthrow, as being the most likely means of bringing about a general peace. Proposals had been made to Napoleon, (with what degree of sincerity it is difficult now to decide,) that he should relinquish his other conquests, and confine himself within the ancient limits of France; but to this proposal he haughtily declined acceding. One by one, however, the various outposts which lay between the invading armies and the capital of France were carried, until at last Paris, from which so many schemes of conquest had been issued, and where so many criminal designs upon the happiness of other communities had been matured, surrendered to the united force of the Austrian, Russian, and Prussian arms.

Napoleon's agitation on receiving this intelli-

gence was excessive. The perspiration burst from his brow, and he remained for a time speechless, enduring, doubtless, an amount of mental anguish which it would be difficult for an ordinary mind to conceive. The schemes of ambition which he had toiled so long to frame were now rudely broken and dissolved in empty air, while there remained only the recollection of the multiplied iniquities by which his ill-gotten and now useless authority had been obtained. Napoleon, with the scattered remains of his forces, retreated to the palace of Fontainebleau, a short distance from the metropolis, where he entered into negotiations with the allies. He at first endeavoured to obtain the consent of the latter to his abdication in favour of his son, with his wife, Marie Louisa, as regent. This proposition was declined, however, the allies considering, with justice, that this would eventually lead to the return of the emperor himself to the throne. His abdication was formally demanded, as the sole condition on which the allies would consent to treat with him. Macdonald, one of his old marshals, brought to him this document for his signature. He found Napoleon in his dressing-gown, seated before the fire, and

plunged in the most profound grief. Napoleon embraced Macdonald with tears, and gave him the present of a favourite Turkish scimitar, as a memorial of his regard for his faithful services. Taking up the pen, he signed the act of abdication, renouncing for himself and his heirs the thrones of France and Italy.

No sooner was Napoleon's resignation made known amongst his followers, than almost all of them abandoned their attendance upon him, and paid their court to the allied powers, soliciting employment under the new monarchy which was about to be established. One general, who amidst the universal defection preserved his fidelity towards his old master, has graphically described the display of selfish passions which was made upon this occasion. All the courtiers complained bitterly, that the emperor was so long in signing the abdication: "It was absolute childishness," they said, "to remain at Fontainebleau, when favours were being showered down at Paris." Every time, indeed, the door of the emperor's cabinet was open, the crowd of parasites thrust in their heads, to see whether the wished-for document had at last been completed. From the highest officers to the lowest menials, desertion then

followed. Berthier, Napoleon's favourite general, was amongst the first to leave ; and Roustan his Mameluke servant, joined in a similar ignominious flight. Bitterly must Napoleon have felt this abandonment, but it was the natural result of that system of selfishness upon which his whole power had been built. He was now, in the language of the poet,

“The desolater desolate,  
The victor overthrown;  
The arbiter of other lives,  
A suppliant for his own.”

The allies, after much deliberation, had resolved to place upon the throne of France Louis XVIII., the brother of the unfortunate monarch who perished on the scaffold during the French revolution. With respect to Napoleon, it was ultimately decided that he should be appointed emperor of Elba, a small island opposite Italy, where, retaining the imperial dignity, it was hoped that he would rest contented without again disturbing by his ambition the peace of Europe. The vanity of this expectation was, it will be seen, ere long made apparent. In the mean time, the intelligence of Napoleon's fall excited over Europe transports of joy. Men could scarcely believe that the power which had once been so gigantic

and apparently so irresistible, had been so completely prostrated. "Peace," says a writer of the day, "has come upon the world like the balmy air and flushing verdure of a late spring, after the dreary chill of a long and interminable winter; and the refreshing sweetness with which it has visited the earth feels like Elysium to those who have just escaped from the driving tempest it has banished."

Napoleon rapidly completed his arrangements for quitting France, and on the 20th of April, 1814, set out for Elba. Previous to his departure, his old guard, who had attended him during so many dangers, was drawn up on the court of Fontainebleau. He addressed them in a few words, which drew tears from their eyes. Calling for their standard, he kissed the eagle which surmounted it. "Farewell," he said, "beloved eagle! may these kisses be treasured in the heart of the brave! Adieu, my children! My brave companions surround me once more—I will always remember you—preserve your remembrance of me!" Having uttered these words, he threw himself into the carriage, and set out for the scene of his exile.

The journey lasted eight days. During a portion of it he was subjected to many insults

from the inhabitants of the towns through which he passed, who taunted him with his ambition. On one occasion, his life was exposed to considerable peril, and he only escaped violence by disguising himself as a courier. He was at times melancholy and dejected. His wife, Maria Louisa, though willing to share his fallen fortunes, had, by political considerations, been induced to refrain from doing so ; and Josephine, who would so readily have clung to him in every trial, was herself seized with an illness, which terminated in death a month after his leaving France.

On reaching Elba, Napoleon displayed his characteristic energy in speedily carrying out various improvements in his little dominions, which did not exceed a few miles in extent. New roads, canals, and aqueducts were constructed—a palace was built—an adjacent island was occupied, and fortifications erected upon it to resist the descent of the Algerine pirates. A new national flag, bearing three bees as its ensign, was unfurled, and marks of bustle and prosperity, to which Elba had long been a stranger, were soon apparent. A British commissioner had been appointed to reside on the island, and with him Napoleon affected the

greatest familiarity. Going out alone in a boat together to fish, Napoleon would say, "Now that we are by ourselves, ask me any question you please, and I will answer you." Attracted by the novelty of the scene presented at Elba, many travellers visited the place, and all of them Napoleon received with courtesy. He invariably spoke of himself as one whose political career was closed, and whose object it was to journey in future through life more as a spectator than as an actor in its busy scenes.

While professing such pacific resolutions, however, he was meditating schemes of a war-like character. France had not received with satisfaction the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty, and was disposed to lament the decay of that splendour and false glory which had surrounded it during Napoleon's reign. A large body of troops, also, which had been in distant parts of the continent at the time of Napoleon's fall, having now returned to their own country, loudly murmured at the fate of their former leader, asserting that, if they had been near him at the time of his misfortunes, no such catastrophe would have befallen him. Napoleon had closely observed these signs, and had silently matured a project for reinstating him-

self on the throne of France, and again struggling for European dominion. On Sunday, the 26th of February, 1815, he communicated his intentions to the small body of troops which still attended him, and the project having been received with enthusiasm, he embarked with them on that very evening, and on the 1st of March again landed in France, at the port of Cannes, near Fréjus.

Never was the extraordinary influence possessed by Napoleon over the French people more clearly manifested than upon this occasion. With extraordinary fickleness, the very parties who had hailed his departure with joy, now welcomed his return with enthusiasm. On the French army, in particular, the intelligence was most electrifying: the various regiments sent out by the existing government to oppose him shouted "*Vive l'Empereur!*" and joined his ranks. His march to Paris was more like a triumphal procession than an invasion. "*He re-appeared,*" says an eloquent writer, "*like a returning wave, which, the farther it has retreated, is rolled back on the shore with more terrific and overwhelming violence.*"

At Grenoble in particular his sway over the minds of his veteran troops had been peculiarly

marked. Advancing to that town with a handful of men, he was met by a detachment of soldiers, whom the governor of it had sent to oppose his farther progress. He was filled with alarm at finding that these troops, instead of fraternizing with his men as he had been led to anticipate, manifested, on the contrary, a spirit of resistance. Advancing boldly, he addressed them in a trembling voice, "My children," said he, "do you recognise me? I am your emperor! fire on me if you wish—fire on your father—here is my bosom:" suiting his action to the words, he then unbared his breast; the soldiers, touched by this appeal, forgot all other considerations, and throwing themselves at his feet, embraced him with enthusiasm, and joined his ranks. Advancing to the town of Grenoble, he found there the gates closed against him, and the ramparts bristling with cannon and armed men; a similar appeal was made however to the garrison, and with equal success. Forgetful of their oaths to the new government, the troops hailed Napoleon's appearance with joy. Military discipline so far prevailed, however, as to prevent them from opening the gates of the town, but Napoleon was suffered without molestation to force them open with a cannon, and on

entering the city, was overwhelmed with demonstrations of affection. Even Ney, one of his old marshals, who had been entrusted by the Bourbons with the command of their troops, and who had boasted that he would bring back Napoleon in an iron cage, was carried away by the general torrent, and joined his ranks with all the forces placed at his disposal.

The Bourbon family, alarmed at the progress of disaffection, quitted Paris in consternation, and on the 20th of March, 1815, Napoleon again entered that capital, and slept in the palace of the Tuilleries.

A congress of the representatives of the allied sovereigns of Europe was sitting at Vienna at the time when Napoleon landed in France. Startling as was the intelligence conveyed to them, yet so utterly unexpected was it, and so completely subversive of all the plans for the future government of Europe which they had been forming, that the whole assembly burst into laughter. This ill-timed merriment, however, was quickly succeeded by the most active preparations, and ere long upwards of a million of men were in march against France. Napoleon, meanwhile, had not been idle, and had collected troops to the number of six hundred thousand,

which he arranged in various portions of his dominions. Hastening forward to Belgium, he meditated, by a recurrence to his ancient system of tactics, to strike a blow at his opponents before their forces had become concentrated. His arm had lost, however, its wonted power. On the 18th of June occurred the well-known battle of Waterloo. After a day of severe fighting with the English forces under the duke of Wellington, he was completely routed, and saw depart from him for ever that sceptre of empire which he had wielded so much to the injury of humanity.

Retreating hastily to Paris, he strove in vain to gather together the fragments of an army, and speedily found that his only hope of safety was in flight. Repairing to the sea-coast, he endeavoured in vain to find some vessel by which he could escape to America. A line of British cruisers intercepted the whole coast, and rendered the scheme a fruitless one. Napoleon perceived the critical nature of his situation, and determined to surrender himself to the captain of a British man-of-war, justly considering that his life was less endangered by such a step than it would have been by his falling into the hands

of those continental powers upon whom he had committed such flagrant aggressions.

Recent publications have shown that Napoleon's fears in this respect were not altogether groundless, the project of shooting him having been seriously contemplated by some of his continental enemies.

On being conveyed to the shores of England, Napoleon was not allowed to land, but crowds of spectators surrounded his vessel, anxious to get a glimpse of the person who had filled all Europe with his fame. Napoleon strove hard to get his residence fixed in this country, but for obvious political considerations such a course was inadmissible. The island of St. Helena had been selected as the place of his exile, furnishing as it did a spot where his person might be secured, and yet at the same time a considerable degree of freedom from restraint be allowed to him. The generosity of the British government has been much assailed by foreign writers, on account of its declining to concede to Napoleon the asylum which he thus sought in Britain; but it requires little reflection to perceive that the ministry of this country would have been most deeply culpable, had they afforded

any opportunity of a second escape to one like Napoleon, who had wrapped the world in flames.

St. Helena is situated midway between England and its Indian colonies, and was, at the time of Napoleon's departure for it, in the possession of the East India Company. The voyage took place without any circumstance of remarkable interest occurring, the fallen emperor having continued to manifest great mental composure, and by his engaging manners having won the regard of the sailors on board the vessel. On the 15th October, 1815, Napoleon came in sight of his future prison-house: gloomy rocks destitute of all vegetation, and bristling with cannon, at every aperture met his eye, and presented a prospect sufficiently cheerless and uninviting. Napoleon examined the spot for a long time with a telescope, and although doubtless his reflections were full of melancholy, he allowed no symptoms of mental discomposure to escape him. A residence at Longwood, the deputy governor's summer-quarters, was soon provided, and Napoleon, with a few faithful followers who had not forsaken his fallen fortunes, landed and took possession of it.

The remainder of his life is soon told. Although provided by the British government

with an ample supply of materials for mitigating the tedium of his captivity, he showed that his mind was restless and dissatisfied. Anxious still to keep up the recollection of his name in Europe, he adopted the mean course of embroiling himself with the governor of the island, and of circulating throughout Europe falsely coloured and exaggerated statements of the hardships to which he was subjected. At times he would relax himself by dictating to some of his attendants recollections of his past life, while at others he would converse with visitors from the various ships which touched at St. Helena on their passage to and from India. Although possessing a power of self-mastery which prevented his feelings from displaying themselves to strangers, it was but too evident that Napoleon was a miserable man.

Sympathizing, indeed, as we involuntarily must do, with his fall from such an exalted station, we cannot but acknowledge the rectitude of that Divine administration which leaves the sting of remorse to a life like Napoleon's, spent in the abuse and violation of the rules laid down by God for the welfare of his accountable creatures. Happy would it have been for Napoleon, had he turned in the hour of

his misfortune to the consolations which the gospel has provided for those who unfeignedly seek its remedies! Unfortunately, however, he remained as he had lived, a stranger to its life-giving doctrines. He was attached nominally to the Roman Catholic communion, having obtained, at his own request, the services of two priests of that denomination from Europe. Occasionally, it appears, he read the Scriptures; but, although he admired the sublime morality of their precepts, his heart seems to have remained unaffected by their contents.

Various projects were formed to assist Napoleon in escaping from the island of St. Helena, but they were all defeated by the vigilance of the government. The most curious of these was a plan contrived by a smuggler of the name of Johnson, for building a vessel capable of being sunk under water, and of being raised again to the surface by means of floats and air-tubes. Aided by this ingenious invention, it was hoped that the island might have been approached during the night, and the vessel escape notice, until an opportunity of bringing off Napoleon occurred. The ship is said to have been actually in course of construction at some dock-yard on the banks of the Thames,

until its peculiar form having attracted attention and led to discovery, it was destroyed.

After a long and wearisome captivity, symptoms of disease presented themselves in Napoleon, and terminated in cancer of the stomach, a complaint to which his father had fallen a victim. Napoleon's spirits during his illness became extremely depressed: "I am no longer," he would exclaim, "the great Napoleon; ah! why did the cannon-balls spare me to die in this miserable manner?" It would be pleasing to be able to narrate that even in his dying moments Napoleon awoke to a true conviction of his state by nature, as a lost and ruined sinner, and had cast himself upon that blood which "cleanseth from all sin;" but, alas! in vain do we look for any marks of such a spirit in the expressions which dropped from his lips. His language, on the contrary, was that which might have been expected from a heathen warrior of antiquity. "When I am dead," said he to his attendants, "you will have the soothing consolation of returning to Europe. One will meet his relations, another his friends; and as for me, I shall behold my brave companions in the Elysian Fields. Yes," he continued, raising his voice, "Kleber, Desaix, Bessières, Duroc, Ney,

Massena, Murat, Berthier, all will come to greet me ; they will talk to me of what we have done together, and I will recount to them the latest events of my life. On seeing me, they will become once more intoxicated with enthusiasm and glory. We will discourse of our wars, with the Scipios, the Hannibals, the Cæsars, and the Fredericks." To the Christian reader, these words will suggest painful emotions. How little must he who uttered them have understood the nature of that rest which remaineth for the people of God ! Warriors and conquerors shall indeed be there ; but the only victories which they shall rehearse, will be those which, in the Divine strength, they achieved over sin and corruption.

On the 5th of May, 1821, Napoleon breathed his last. The words which from time to time escaped him showed that the ruling passion was strong in death, and that his last thoughts were those of war and battle. A terrific storm raged in the island of St. Helena on the evening of Napoleon's death, as if the elements in their strife were conscious of the departure from the stage of life of one who had so often awoke the tempestuous war of human passions. On the 8th of May, the remains of the deceased emperor

were committed to the tomb. The cloak which he wore at the battle of Marengo having been laid upon the coffin, the melancholy procession slowly wound its way to the place of interment. A party of British grenadiers bore Napoleon's remains, and amidst the roar of artillery and musketry, they were lowered in the grave ; earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes ! A more striking lesson of the vanity of human ambition was perhaps never read, and the scene was one at which even the most unreflecting and thoughtless of mankind must have been filled with solemn emotion.

Napoleon himself had pointed out before his death the place where he wished his remains to be deposited. It was a retired spot beside a fountain, at which his domestics used to draw the water for his daily use. The whole scene had a rural and retired aspect, suggestive of peaceful associations strangely at variance with the character of him who reposed beneath. A willow overhung the tomb, and for years afterwards a slip from its branches was so eagerly coveted as a memorial of Napoleon, that the British governor had at last to station sentinels, to prevent the total destruction of the tree.

The news of Napoleon's death was soon made known throughout Europe, but did not excite the deep emotion which might have been anticipated. For some years he had ceased to be regarded as exercising any important influence in politics. Still, however, all felt that one of the most wonderful of the children of men had passed away from the stage of mortal existence, and the nations of Europe breathed, as it were, more freely under the consciousness that they were for ever released from the machinations of one who had been the grand troubler of the world's repose.

The will of Napoleon has been published. In many parts it is both an interesting and an affecting document, but it is also characterized by that meanness which formed such a large ingredient in his character. A legacy was left by him to a soldier who had attempted the assassination of his successful rival at the field of Waterloo. In a clause of the will, he had expressed a desire that his "ashes might repose on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of the French people, whom he had loved so well." This desire was granted. In September, 1840, at the request of the French government, arrangements were made for the transfer of the

remains to the capital of France. On opening the tomb, the body was found in a remarkable state of preservation. Napoleon had been laid in the coffin with his three-cornered hat, military surtout, and boots, as he in general appeared when on the field of battle. The spectators gazed with awe, as the remains of the departed warrior met their eye, and for a time the inanimate figure before them might have been supposed to have been tranquilly reposing in slumber. Amidst much pomp, the remains were finally conducted to Paris, and re-interred with great splendour. Let it be hoped, as was well observed upon the occasion, that in the tomb of Napoleon the discords of France and England will in future be buried.

Several of Napoleon's family long survived him, but although possessed of ample wealth, they lost the honours with which he had invested them. Napoleon's mother died ten years after himself, having borne the strange vicissitudes of her family with singular equanimity. His son, as we have previously intimated, died of consumption, and Josephine of a broken heart. Maria Louisa, after contracting a low marriage with her chamberlain, lived in comparative obscurity, and died only recently. Thus has

passed away, like the baseless fabric of a vision, the dynasty of the great Napoleon.

The overthrow of Bonaparte had been the signal for the cessation of hostilities in Europe. He had long charged upon other nations the guilt of the various wars in which he had been engaged, but the injustice of this charge was sufficiently shown by the almost unbroken tranquillity which ensued when he was removed from the sphere of political influence and power. In this sketch of his career we have purposely avoided detailing minutely his military exploits, as being little calculated to gratify the Christian reader. From this circumstance, the full extent of the misery which Napoleon inflicted will at first sight scarcely be perceived, and in wonder at the energy of his character, we may be in danger of losing sight of its darker features. When it is recollected, however, that the number of men to whose slaughter his ambition led is to be numbered by millions ; and when dwelling for a moment on the sufferings of *one* individual on the field of battle, and on the train of mourners and orphans which *one* death produces ; we proceed to sum up the aggregate of suffering which resulted to humanity from Napoleon's career,

we are lost in dismay at the appalling summary of guilt and misery which the calculation presents. Unspeakably great does the blessing of peace appear in the contrast, and fervent will be the prayers of the pious reader, that it may by the Divine blessing be long preserved amidst the nations of the earth.

The character of Napoleon Bonaparte has been variously estimated by different classes of individuals. By his cotemporaries in this and other countries with whom he was engaged in warfare, he was generally regarded as little else than a monster in human form. Oppressed as his opponents were by his tyranny and passion for military glory, they hesitated not to accuse him of every vice that was degrading, and refused to admit the existence of anything humane or commendable in his character. In later times, however, a milder verdict upon Napoleon has been pronounced. Abhorring, as we are bound to do, the selfish ambition which led him to commit so many enormities, candour must compel us to admit that he was not destitute of attractive and even amiable qualities. His efforts for the reconstruction of French society, his legislative labours, his patronage of art and science, all place him amongst the roll of great

men, on grounds entirely independent of his military qualities. Even as a warrior, too, Napoleon will contrast favourably with other conquerors ; for if he rivalled and outdid them in ambition, he exhibited traits of generosity to which they were strangers. Still, however, when every favourable allowance has been made for Napoleon, which Christian charity can urge, sufficient still remains to fix a deep and indelible stain on his character. His insatiable ambition, his reckless disregard of human life, his insufferable pride, his meanness and duplicity, all appear so prominently marked throughout his career, that it were vain and wicked to attempt to palliate them.

The career of Napoleon is so intimately connected with the first French revolution, that the history of the one appears to be the natural sequel of the other. The guilty passions which that wonderful event called into play were, by a just retribution of Providence, made to minister their own punishment, and Napoleon was but the instrument appointed by a higher Power for its infliction. Upon this point, however, we cannot do better than borrow the language of an eloquent writer of modern times. "If you had wished to figure to yourselves a

country which had reached the utmost pinnacle of prosperity, you would, undoubtedly, have turned your eyes to France as she appeared a few years before the revolution: illustrious in learning and genius; the favourite abode of the arts, and the mirror of fashion, whither the flower of the nobility from all countries resorted, to acquire the last polish of which the human character is susceptible. Lulled in voluptuous repose, and dreaming of a philosophical millennium without dependence upon God, like the generation before the flood, they ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage. In that exuberant soil everything seemed to flourish but religion and virtue. The season, however, was at last arrived when God was resolved to punish their impiety, as well as to avenge the blood of his servants, whose souls had for a century been incessantly crying to him from under the altar. And what method did he employ for this purpose? When He to whom vengeance belongs—when He whose ways are unsearchable, and whose wisdom is inexhaustible, proceeded to the execution of this strange work, he drew from his treasures a weapon he had never employed before. Resolving to make their punishment as signal as their crimes, he

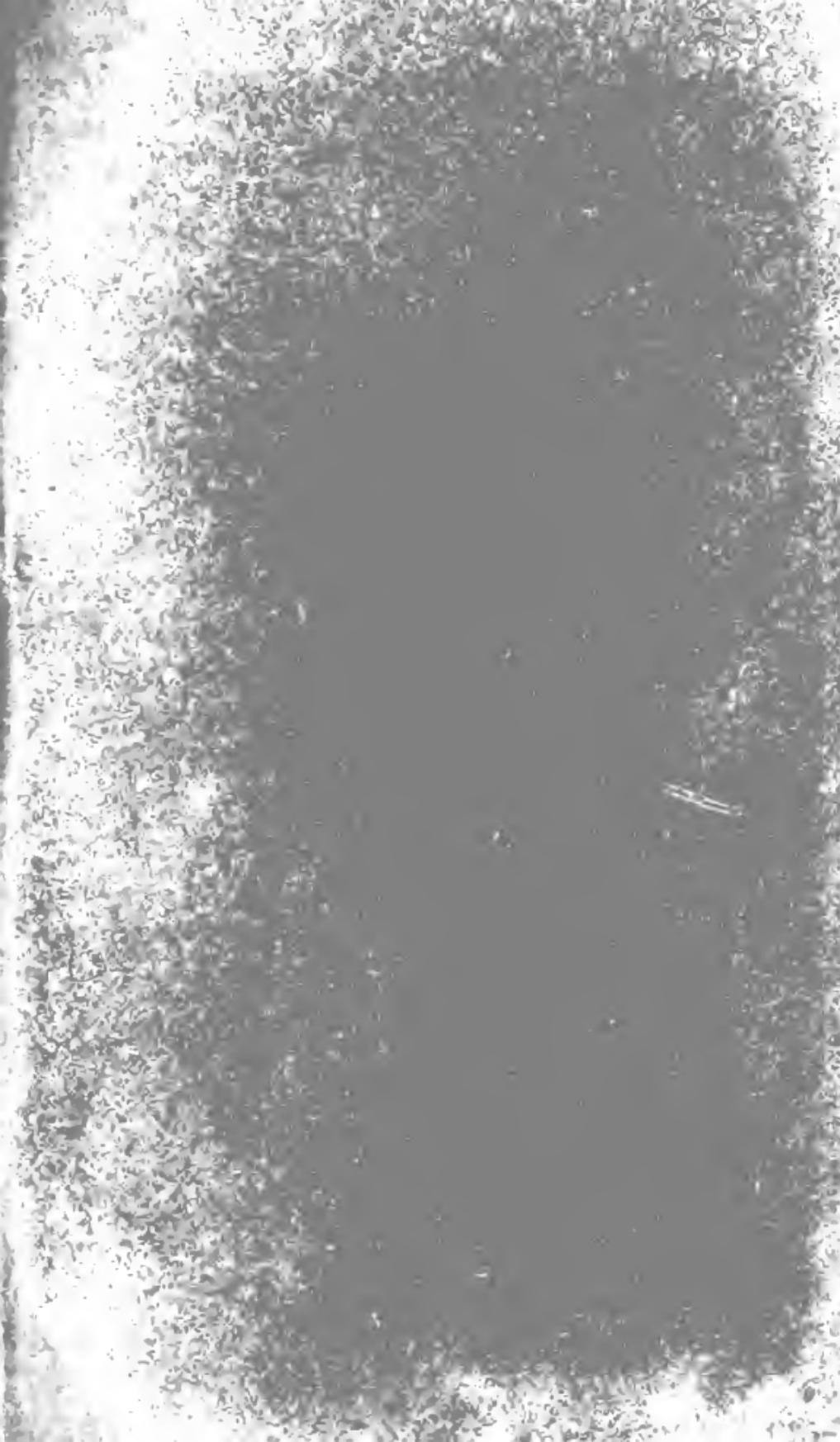
neither let loose an inundation of barbarous nations, nor the desolating powers of the universe ; he neither overwhelmed them with earthquakes, nor visited them with pestilence. He summoned from themselves a ferocity more terrible than either ; a ferocity which, mingling in the struggle for liberty, and borrowing aid from that very refinement to which it seemed opposed, turned every man's hand against his neighbour, sparing no age, nor sex, nor rank ; till, satiated with the ruin of greatness, the distresses of innocence, and the tears of beauty, it terminated its career in unrelenting despotism. . . . Our only security against similar calamities, is a steady adherence to religion ; not the religion of mere form and profession, but that which has its seat in the heart ; not as it is mutilated and debased by the refinements of a false philosophy, but as it exists in all its simplicity and extent in the sacred Scriptures ; consisting in sorrow for sin, in the love of God, and in faith in a crucified Redeemer. If this religion revives and flourishes among us, no weapon formed against us will prosper ; if we despise or neglect it, no human power can afford us protection."\*

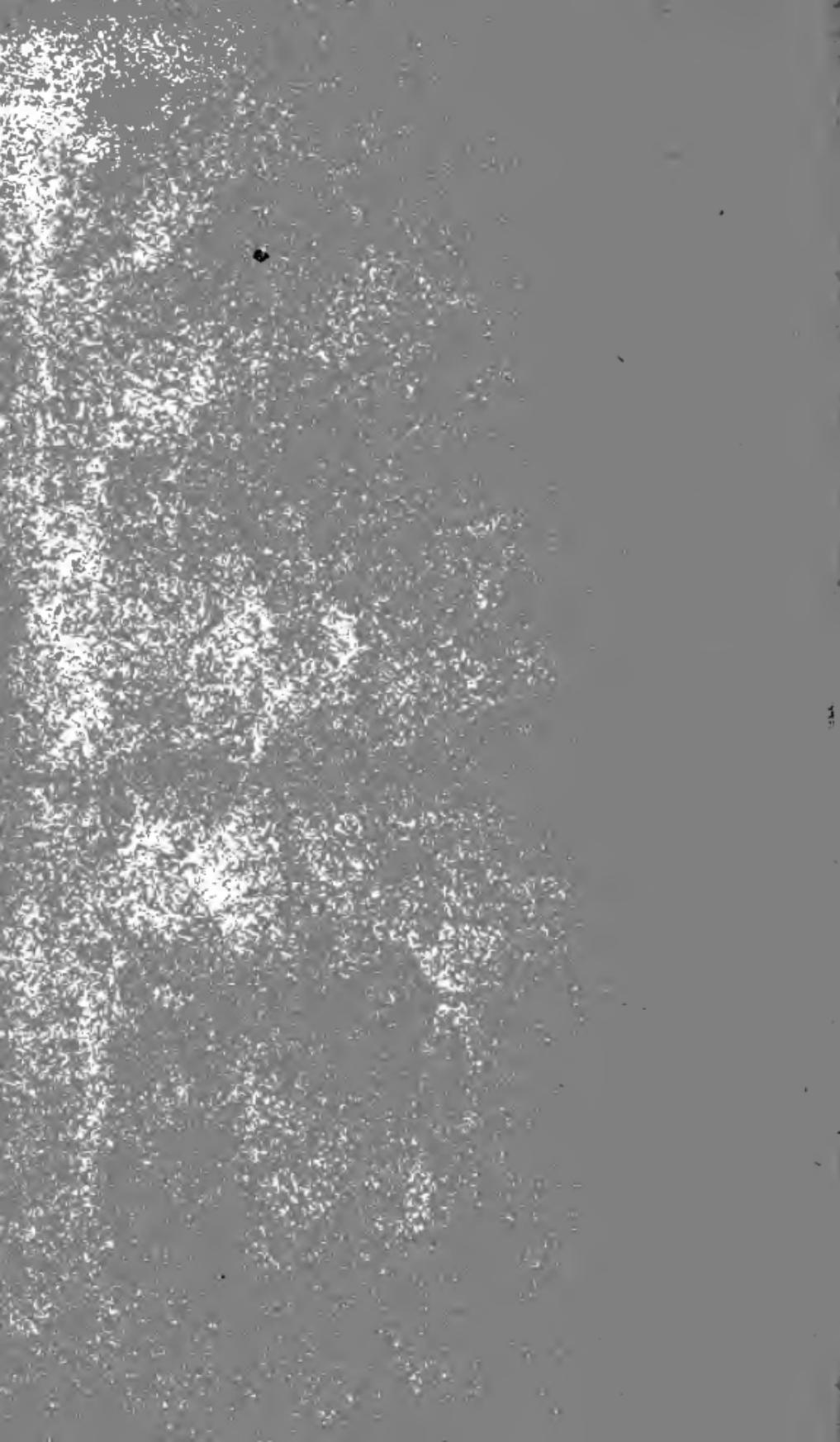
\* See "Reflections on War," by the late Rev. Robert Hall.

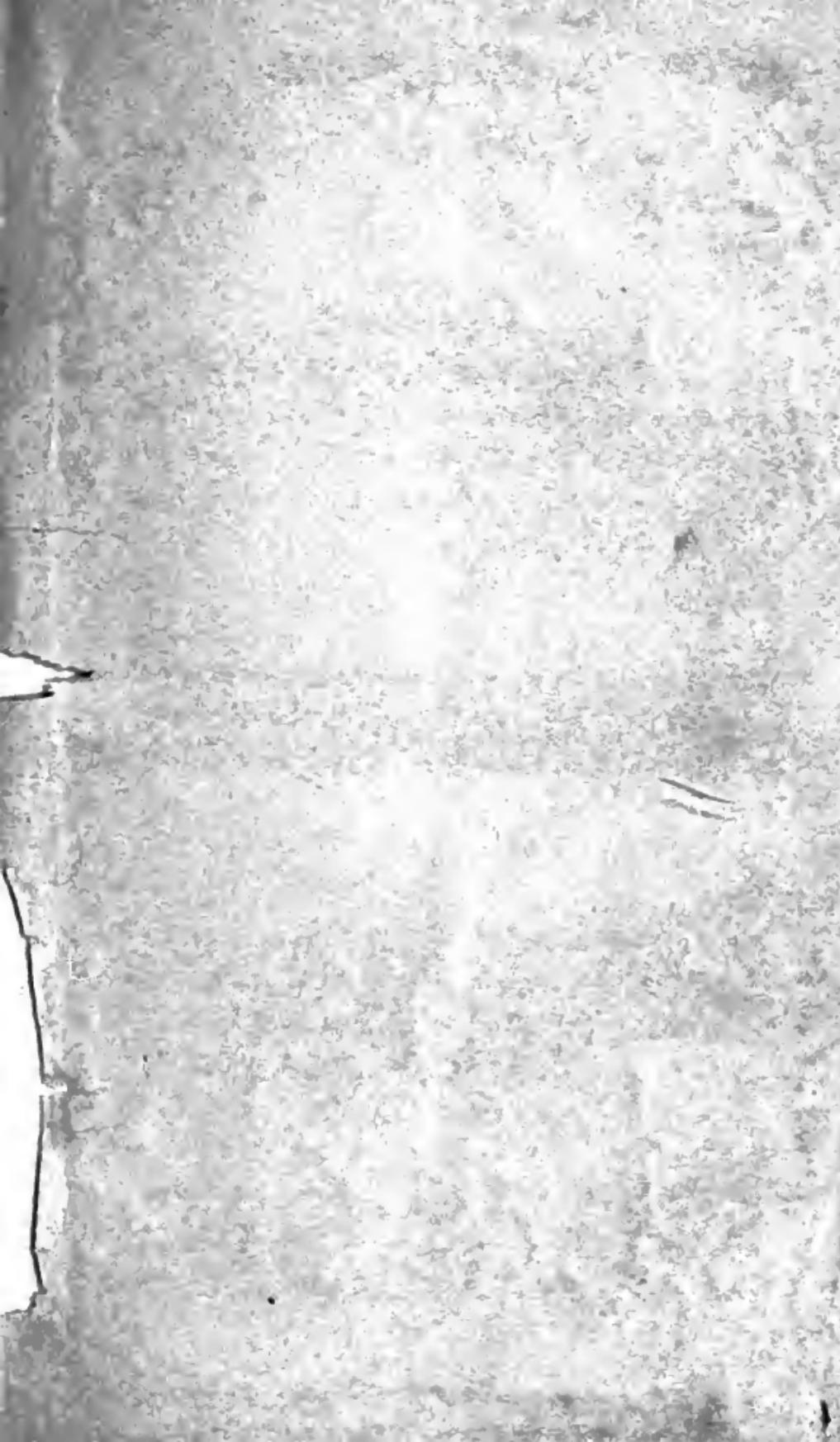
In various points of view, the lessons presented by Napoleon's career are both numerous and striking. As our space does not permit us to enlarge, however, we would only remark that, in an especial manner, his life furnishes us with an example of the unsatisfactory nature of all worldly pursuits, when not directed by a sanctified spirit. With talents of the very highest order, with opportunities of glorifying God, and of promoting human happiness of the most varied and enlarged character, he threw the golden prize away, and narrowed down his mind to the pursuit of selfish and contracted objects. He lived for this world alone, and experienced, as all who do so must sooner or later discover, that vanity and vexation of spirit are the result of such a choice. On the rock at St. Helena he stood forth an example of blighted hope and of corroding passions ; a melancholy spectacle of talents perverted and abused ; and, may it not be feared, an appalling illustration of that thrilling truth, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matt. xvi. 26.

Reader, with these words we close this brief sketch of Napoleon's career. If, like him, you have tasted of the fountains of this world and

found their waters to be bitter, turn, we beseech thee, to those healing streams of mercy which the gospel supplies. Cast thyself down in deep self-abhorrence at the Saviour's feet, and in earnest prayer implore his mercy and a sense of his forgiving love. In his compassionate arms thou wilt find that peace which in vain thou hast hitherto sought in an ensnaring and deluding world. "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by him all that believe are justified from all things," Acts xiii. 38, 39. Oh then, now while it is the day of grace, receive the Divine message of reconciliation, and believe that record of mercy which God has given concerning his Son! "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," Acts xvi. 31. "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son," 1 John v. 11.









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Bonaparte

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